

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, September 15, 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:

- VI. New Business
 - 10. Discussion and Approval of MML Travel Expenses

Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 2, 2008 stand approved as submitted with the change of removing Member Tchokreff as Present and adding Member Peterson as Absent.

Public Comment

Barbara Kramer – 135 Bradley St. – suggested that the City enforce the ordinance regarding owner maintenance of sidewalks. Also, she believes the City should vacate all public alleys and put the maintenance on the adjoining property owners.

Old Business

Line Striping Bid

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to concur with the recommendation of the Streets Committee and not award the line striping bid at this time.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

New Business

Metro Act Permit Ext. AT&T

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Peterson to approve a two year extension of AT&T's Metro Act Permit. This extends the agreement through December 31, 2010.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Safe Routes to School

Mr. Kevin Trevillian of Vision 2020 commented on the "Safe Routes to School" program. He stated that the objective of the grant application is for reconstruction of 5th St. leading to North Elementary School. He said the goal is to make 5th St. a safer route for biking and walking. Mr. Trevillian stated that the application is for \$323,000 and is 100% grant funded.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Peterson to approve a resolution of support for the "Safe Routes to School" program.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Bat Cave Trail

Mr. Trevillian stated that this resolution of support for the Bat Cave Trail is a supplement to the original application. He said the original application has changed due to an increase in construction costs and a

New Business (cont.)

monetary commitment from the Rotary Club which will increase the local match for the grant. He stated that the local match is 39% of the grant.

It was moved Rosen and supported Farragh to approve the amended Resolution of Support for the Bat Cave Trail grant application.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Rezoning Request

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to establish a date and time of Monday, October 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. for a public hearing to receive input on a rezoning of Quinnesec, 6th, Norway and East Main Streets from B-2 (General Business) to R-2 (Moderate Density Residential).

Member Peterson asked if this is changed to R-2 would that affect the zoning setbacks around the businesses. Mayor VanLaanen feels that it will not affect existing business owners. City Attorney Pirkola agreed that this would not affect the existing businesses.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Hydrant Purchase

Mayor VanLaanen stated the City is in the process of repairing or replacing hydrants and found that there was limited hydrant inventory to complete this task. Member Rosen said the Finance Committee discussed the issue of purchasing hydrants and reviewed three proposals with a per hydrant cost of \$1,800 to \$1,850. It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to authorize the purchase of ten fire hydrants.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Winter Sand

It was moved by Burke and supported by Farragh to authorize the solicitation of bids for winter sand.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Harvest on Hughitt

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Rosen to extend the time of the street closure for the Harvest on Hughitt from 12:30 p.m. as approved at the September 2nd meeting, to 3:00 p.m.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Street Closure for Auction

Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that Superior Auction requested a partial street closure for an auction. It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to authorize the closure of Van Buren St. from East B St. south to the alley on September 27, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., contingent on Superior Auction provide a road block plan to the Police Chief and a copy of the current liability insurance.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Millie Hill Subdivision Discussion

Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that the last action by the City Council was in February of 2008 that would allow the developer to connect to the City sewer system. Member Rosen stated the developer has not connected to the City sewer because he is unsure that he has the support of the Council. Member Rosen said Mr. Lafave told him that this project had been approved twice by the Planning Board. Mayor VanLaanen said the project was divided into phases at the last meeting to help the developer complete the project and lower the bonding requirement. Member Burke felt that the Council and the developer should discuss this at a committee level because it has been so long since the last meeting. Member Peterson said breaking this into phases had been agreed upon. City Attorney Pirkola stated that

New Business (cont.)

the Council has the ability to have the infrastructure built prior to final plat approval. He said that in lieu of completing the infrastructure work the developer can post a bond to have the final plat approved. Member Rosen asked Mr. Lafave if he would like approval of his final plat. Mr. Lafave said that he has waited all summer for a developer's agreement from the City and never received one. Mayor VanLaanen said the Council allowed Mr. Lafave to do his infrastructure in phases to keep the bonding requirements low. Mr. Lafave stated that he has been working on this development since 1999. Mayor VanLaanen said that the Council would approve the final plat if the infrastructure was completed or a bond was posted. Member Peterson felt the developer should have written authorization to go forward with the sewer hookup, instead of verbal authorization. Mr. Lafave requested approval on his subdivision. Mayor VanLaanen offered another meeting to refresh everyone's memory of what was agreed upon. Mr. Lafave stated that he is tired of meetings and considers this case closed.

No action taken.

MML Travel Expenses

Member Rosen feels the term "region" should be defined in the travel policy. He would like the travel expenses approved prior to any expenditure for travel.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Peterson to approve the travel of the Mayor and Interim City Manager for the MML Annual Conference on Mackinac Island.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of August with regular wages in the amount of \$333,022.56 and OT in the amount of \$40,475.23. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$620,884.78. The Finance Committee reviewed the claims and recommends approval as submitted. Member Farragh noted the high cost of diesel fuel that was recently purchased and may need a budget amendment to account for this. Member Peterson asked if the City is reimbursed the \$7,852 for the downtown market study. Interim Manager Stanchina stated that the State has already reimbursed the City for this expenditure. Member Peterson asked about the numerous charges for software maintenance agreements. She would like to address this at an upcoming technology committee meeting. Member Peterson asked about the reimbursements for Italian Fest. CFO Bartolameolli stated that she would note on the Claims report which were for Main Street/DDA. She said that these expenditures are paid for by the Main Street/DDA Fund and not the General Fund.

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

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Report

Mayor VanLaanen stated that the DDA voted to increase their membership from 9 to 11 members and asked if the City needed to advertise for the open positions.

Mayor VanLaanen asked about a memo from CEO Mulka suggesting the City possibly bidding on State of MI tax sale properties so the City would have control of the properties. Member Peterson thinks the City should approach the adjacent property owners and they could possibly acquire the property.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Streets Committee

The Committee recommended repairing the retaining wall at the 800 block of Ludington St. The lowest of three proposals was from GCM Construction, in the amount of \$1,800.

Finance Committee

Member Rosen said the Fire Department was high because one employee was off for an extended period of time. The overtime in the Fire Department was \$17,198 and the extended leave was \$6,197 of the overtime. He said there was a discussion of the fee schedule.

Public Comment

Chuck Meyer – Mountain Engineering – addressed his concerns of the Millie Hill Estates subdivision and felt that a Developer’s Agreement is an important part of the process.

Lorraine Kelly – 615 East B St. – in reference to the tax sale properties, she would encourage everyone to go see the 300 block of East C St. where an older house was torn down and replaced with a landscaped green space.

Susan Khoury – 518 Fleshiem St. – believes that Council Minutes should be available at the meetings.

Barb Kramer – 135 Bradley St. – glad line striping bid was denied based on a recent downtown walk ability study. She said that the recent study had some better ideas for striping crosswalks.

Council Member Privilege

Member Peterson asked Mr. Chuck Meyer of Mountain Engineering about the developer’s agreement for the proposed Millie Hill Estates subdivision. Member Peterson is concerned with committee meetings not having minutes or audio recordings. She discussed the MSU Extension Office Program on biomass. Member Peterson stated that she attended an Economic Development Alliance meeting and share information of cellulosic ethanol energy. She thanked Mr. Kevin Trevillian for the in-kind drawings that reposition the City Park athletic fields. She requested help from anyone interested in improving City Park.

Member Farragh stated the striping referred to by Ms. Kramer is done by the State and not the city. He would like to restart the “Snowplow Safety Program”.

Member Burke stated that a new employee at Coleman Engineering was looking at ways to secure federal grants to assist in cleaning Crystal Lake.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Peterson to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation. (8:02 p.m.)

Roll call vote taken:

Rosen	Yes	Burke	Yes
VanLaanen	Yes	Farragh	Yes
Peterson	Yes		

Motion carried. (5 Yes – 0 No)

Regular Session reconvened. (8:20 p.m.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer