

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, October 6, 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 Farragh and supported by Rosen to approve the agenda as submitted with the removal of the following:

- VI. New Business
  - 7. Discussion and Approval of Purchase of Service Time Re: Mr. Doug Donahue

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2008 were approved as submitted.

### Public Comment

None

### Public Hearing

#### Rezoning sections of Quinnesec, Norway, 6<sup>th</sup> & E Main St.

Mayor VanLaanen opened the Public Hearing.

Mike Steele – 204 6<sup>th</sup> St. – spoke in support of the proposed rezoning. He felt the original zoning was an error by the City and would encourage the Council to take action and rezone the area being proposed tonight. He said there are other areas in the City that are improperly zoned.

Mayor VanLaanen closed the Public Hearing.

### Old Business

#### Rezoning sections of Quinnesec, Norway, 6<sup>th</sup> & E Main St.

Member Peterson asked upon approval of the rezoning, what will happen with vertical buffers that should have been in place between residential and businesses. Mayor VanLaanen asked if this was rezoned would a vertical buffer be required? City Attorney Pirkola stated there are many factors that go into a decision on non-conforming uses. Member Peterson asked if the business was supposed to do this in the special use permit why is there no vertical buffer? City Attorney Pirkola said that if it was required in the special use permit than it should be enforced. Member Peterson thinks the City should take a closer look at other areas where the zoning may be in error. Mayor VanLaanen said that there are other zoning problems similar to this.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Peterson to rezone 601 Quinnesec St., 204 & 206 6<sup>th</sup> St., 600, 606, 608, 612 and 618 Norway St. from B-2, General Business, to R-2, Moderate Density Residential per the Planning Board's Recommendation.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

## Old Business (cont.)

### Winter Sand Bid

Interim City Manager Stanchina opened bids for winter sand as follows:

T and G United	\$5.10 p/ton
Midwest Asphalt	\$4.90 p/ton
Morin Excavating	\$4.70 p/ton
A. Lindberg & Sons Inc.	\$6.60 p/ton

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to award the winter sand bid to Morin Excavating at a price per ton of \$4.70 contingent on a review by staff.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

## New Business

### Fire Safety House Agreement

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to approve a change to the Fire Safety House Agreement allowing the Fire Chief and City Manager to be the authorized signatures and waive the rental fee for local departments.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### 2008-2009 Fee Schedule

Member Rosen would like the City to advertise the new lower rates for the City Park Pavilion.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to approve the 2008-2009 Fee Schedule.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### Haz-Mat Services Agreement

Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that this agreement with Veolia Environmental Services would allow the City to retain their hazardous materials services on an as needed basis.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Peterson to approve Hazardous Materials Service Agreement with Veolia Environmental Service.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### DDA Appointments

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Peterson to appoint Mr. Mike Nicometo to a four year term on the Downtown Development Authority.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

It was moved by Burke and supported by Rosen to appoint Mrs. Barb Kramer to a four year term on the Downtown Development Authority.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### West Lake Antoine Boat Launch

Member Peterson was concerned the engineering expense more than doubled from the original agreement. She said that Mr. Marquart and Mr. Becotte agreed to "extra work" that is more than the original amount in the grant and how does the City know that this will be reimbursed? Mayor VanLaanen would recommend tabling this item and having the Park and Recreation committee review it further. Member Peterson does not like that the "extra work" was from a verbal agreement. Member Rosen asked why the DNR wasn't involved from the beginning and would like to hold off on this expense.

**No action taken.**

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

### **Letters of Understanding Champion and Bacco Frontage**

Mayor VanLaanen started the discussion for Letters of Understanding between Champion Inc., Bacco Construction, City of Iron Mountain and Breitung Township. He said the agreements do not acknowledge a road being built but if a road is built it will go on property as outlined by the agreements. Mayor VanLaanen stated that Access Management group met with the property owners multiple times to agree on the placement of an access road for the Champion and Bacco US2 highway frontage. He said that MDOT, as part of adding a fifth lane on north US-2 from the Champion Inc. property to M-95, is willing to spend more money to eliminate some of the current highway access points and build the opening for a future access road. Member Peterson feels the language in the agreements seems to be binding. Member Rosen is not comfortable taking action without further review. He is concerned about the City taking possession of the street and being responsible for the maintenance. Member Farragh expressed similar concerns and he would like to table this and have the attorney review the agreements. Mayor VanLaanen stated that the agreements do not commit the City to build the roads or utilities but if it is done, it will be done where the agreement states. Member Rosen would like the City Attorney to review the agreements. Mayor VanLaanen said the agreements are only stating where the roads will come out. Member Rosen would like to table the agreements.

**No action taken.**

## **Financial Reports**

None

## **City Manager Report**

Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that the Council has discussed hiring a temporary employee while he is performing the dual roles. He said that he spoke with the AFSCME representative and he agreed with the temporary employee provision in the collective bargaining contract.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Farragh to authorize the hiring of a temporary employee for a maximum of 150 days with an hourly wage of approximately \$11 to \$12.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

Member Peterson asked if it would be possible to receive electronic council packets. Member Rosen preferred to get the organized hard copy packets. Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that he will look at whether materials could be sent electronically.

Member Peterson asked about the MML conference on Mackinac Island. Interim City Manager Stanchina responded it went well and there were many useful workshops.

Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that he met with Bob Schneider from the DEQ. Mr. Schneider represented the S2 grant and said that the City should know within a month or two if funds will be available for the projects in the grant.

## **City Attorney Reports**

Member Farragh asked City Attorney Pirkola if he had sent a letter about the reassessment to former City Assessor Brook. City Attorney Pirkola stated that he had not sent anything at this point.

## **Committee Reports**

### Health Care Committee

Member Peterson stated that the Committee met with Mr. Vince Rose from BCBS and discussed alternative drug card options. The Committee is waiting for Mr. Rose to come back with the dollar figures on those different alternatives.

### Technology Committee

Mayor VanLaanen said the committee met with CCI to discuss a new phone system. He said there are possibilities greater than just a phone system. He stated the phone system can be put in and then we can look toward the future with other technology possibilities that can be added on.

### Economic Development Alliance

Member Peterson reported that she passed all her cellulosic ethanol information on to the alliance. She said the alliance is in the process of developing a county wide specification sheet geared toward attracting alternative energy companies.

### **Public Comment**

Mary Couper – 633 Detroit Ave. – felt that the Council should table items they are unsure of because this would help expedite the meeting.

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. – stated she agrees with Member Peterson and believes the City should put out information on the City employee's health insurance plans.

### **Council Member Privilege**

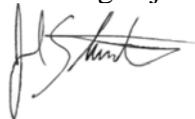
Member Peterson addressed Dr. Feleppa and stated that the committee was developing options to deal with the expense of health insurance. She stated that if there other errors in the way neighborhoods were zoned, the City should look at correcting those areas in addition to the area rezoned tonight.

Member Burke feels the taxpayers deserve to know what benefits City employees are receiving.

Member Farragh asked about the repairs to the retaining wall on W. Ludington St. He stated that the City needs to get control of the large amount of brush being left at the drop off site behind DPW.

Mayor VanLaanen said that 4H will conduct a metal recycling drive on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina  
Clerk-Treasurer