

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, November 3, 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.

## **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2008 were approved as submitted.

## **Public Comment**

Jeff DeRidder – N4073 Pine Mountain Rd. – addressed the Hydraulic Falls Rd. redesign and the need for the road to line up on the west end of the hospital parking lot. This would allow for Hydraulic Falls Rd. to extend across US2 and lead to the potential site for a YMCA.

John Schon - DCH Administrator – he would like the Council to take a look at and consider the realignment of Hydraulic Falls Rd. extending across US2 on the west side of the hospital property.

John Jamar – on behalf of the YMCA Group – would like the Council to consider realigning Hydraulic Falls Rd. so it would line up with a road on the west end of the hospital property that would lead to the potential site of the YMCA.

## **Old Business**

### **Letters of Understanding Champion Inc. and Bacco**

Member Rosen wanted to clarify that 4 US2 access points were being reduced to two and MDOT would put in new access points at their expense. Mayor VanLaanen stated that the road opening constructed by MDOT will only be a private drive initially. The opening constructed will be larger than needed for a private drive so that a road may be constructed in the future. Member Peterson was concerned about 300' of ineligible Trader's Mine Rd. construction that was never answered. Interim City Manager Stanchina stated the City can find an answer for that question but it does not apply to the approval of these agreements.

It was moved by Burke and supported Rosen to approve the Letter of Understanding between MDOT, the City of Iron Mountain and Bacco Construction.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

It was moved by Rosen and supported Burke to approve the Letter of Understanding between MDOT, the City of Iron Mountain and Champion Inc.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

## **New Business**

### **Special Use Permit Grandma's Garden**

Mayor VanLaanen asked about storm water runoff from the greenhouse. Mr. Dale Alessandrini stated that he would put in a swale behind the greenhouse to help address the storm water runoff.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve the special use permit for Grandma's Garden, per the recommendation of the Planning Board.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### **Share Your Christmas Contribution**

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to approve a contribution of \$300 to the Office of Veteran's Affairs for the "Share Your Christmas" program.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### **Christmas Walk Street Closure**

It was moved by Burke and supported by Peterson to close the following streets on Thursday, December 4, 2008 for the Iron Mountain "Christmas Walk" Parade: East Hughitt St. (from Stephenson Ave. to Iron Mountain St.), Iron Mountain St. (from East Hughitt St. to East A St.) and East A St. (from Iron Mountain St. to Stephenson Ave.) from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

**Motion prevailed unanimously.**

### **MDOT Safety Grant**

Mayor VanLaanen discussed the \$400,000 Safety Grant awarded to realign Hydraulic Falls Rd. He said the safety grant is in jeopardy because the original alignments did not meet the standards of the safety grant. Mayor VanLaanen said that there is a conceptual realignment that involves a frontage road with the realignment. He believed the grant money is still available to us but the City would need to break ground next spring. Member Rosen asked if the City received a response to City Manager Marquart's letter dated May 30, 2008, asking for an extension. Member Peterson was also concerned that there was no written response to the letter. Mayor VanLaanen didn't know if there was a written response and thought it may have been a verbal response. Member Peterson asked Mr. Jeff DeRidder (Access Management) about the tie between Hydraulic Falls Rd. and the frontage road. Mr. DeRidder said that Hydraulic Falls Rd. would need to be realigned for the frontage road to be feasible. Member Peterson asked if the YMCA was not built would that affect the alignment of Hydraulic Falls Rd. Mr. DeRidder felt it would not. Member Burke asked if a goal down the road would be link the frontage road to Woodward Ave. Mr. DeRidder felt that would be possible at some point in the future. Member Peterson would feel better about getting behind this project if she had response for the requested grant extension. Mayor VanLaanen said that this will be an expensive project and would look for a consensus that it is worth investigating further. He stated that he has contacted all land owners except the mall owner and will look to contact him in the future. Mayor VanLaanen said this would have to be a TIF project due to the size of the project. Member Rosen agrees to investigate the grant money and project concept further.

**No Action Taken.**

## **Financial Reports**

None

## **City Manager Report**

Member Peterson expressed a desire to attend the AWEA Wind Power Supply Chain Workshop on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland, OH. She said that the conference would be an opportunity to meet manufactures and suppliers of parts used to create wind turbines. Member Peterson would like Council approval to attend the conference and approve reimbursement for a hotel room.

### **City Manager Report (cont.)**

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve Member Peterson's attendance and travel expenses at the AWEA Wind Power Supply Chain Workshop on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland, OH.

**Ayes: 4** (Peterson, Farragh, VanLaanen and Rosen)

**Nays: 1** (Burke)

**Motion carried.**

### **City Attorney Reports**

City Attorney Pirkola stated that he received correspondence back from former City Assessor Brook. He said the response stated that Mr. Brook felt he didn't owe the City anything. He said that he will distribute the letter to the Council for their review and direction.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Health Care Committee

Member Peterson reported that the Committee met and set up a meeting with the retirees to discuss their prescription drug cards.

### **Public Comment**

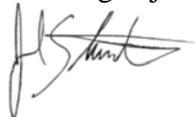
Barb Kramer – 135 Bradley St. – thanked the Council for taking a look at the MDOT Safety Grant and trying to improve Hydraulic Falls Road.

### **Council Member Privilege**

Member Peterson encouraged people to vote on November 4, 2008.

Member Rosen thanked those running for City Council.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina  
Clerk-Treasurer