

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, November 17, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen
Present: Council Members Rosen, Corombos, Burke, Alessandrini, Farragh and Peterson
Also Present: City Attorney Pirkola

Agenda

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

- VI. New Business
 - Combine agenda items #2 and #4
 - 7. Discussion of Cable Franchise Fee
 - 8. Discussion of Accessory Structure Re: Mr. Don Maule

Minutes

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 28, 2008 and the Regular Meeting of November 3, 2008 stand approved as submitted.

Public Comment

Mark Blomquist – 301 W. Grant St. – spoke about using TIFA funds to develop Hydraulic Falls Rd. and how it could help a potential YMCA that could be located behind the hospital. He stated that TIFA funds should be used for infrastructure instead of passing the funds through.

Dan Mitchell – 910 Sunset Dr. – reiterated Mr. Blomquist support for the YMCA. He would like Council support for a YMCA in the community.

Old Business

IAFF #554 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Member Rosen stated that this contract includes the hiring of tenth firefighter to help offset overtime. He said the contract will allow for four men on the truck, with the fourth position being filled by paid part-time personnel. Member Rosen stated that the contract includes an 8% health care premium contribution during employment and at retirement. Member Burke feels that the City should not hire another firefighter when there is a bad local economy. Member Alessandrini stated that this contract will lower the overtime costs. Mayor VanLaanen likes the direction that the contracts provides but is concerned about the police contract. He stated he is concerned that the City will have to pay the firefighting bonus to the police but will not utilize them for this service in the future.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the IAFF Local #554.

Ayes: 5 (Rosen, Farragh, VanLaanen, Corombos and Alessandrini)

Nays: 1 (Burke)

Abstain: 1 (Peterson)

Motion carried.

New Business

Discussion of City and TIFA Budgets

Member Corombos stated that he proposes a \$2 million TIFA capture pass through. He said that this would provide \$1 million to the general fund and could be used for street paving and beginning to build back the Health Insurance Fund. Mayor VanLaanen would like clarity about the legality of a pass through from an attorney. Member Rosen stated that the Council had previously passed through \$200,000 during the budget approval. He feels that a larger pass through would allow for the start of street repaving. He said this pass through would still allow TIFA to capture for the next three years. Mayor VanLaanen stated that the TIFA Board should approve the pass through prior to the Council. Member Peterson said that the construction of a YMCA behind the hospital is a separate issue from the realignment of Hydraulic Falls Rd. and frontage road. Member Corombos believes the frontage road would be expensive and is not realistic. Mayor VanLaanen stated a frontage road could help alleviate congestion on Stephenson Ave. He felt that the frontage road could help develop the vacant parcels surrounding Hydraulic Falls Rd. He said the cost for a frontage road from the K-Mart Plaza to S. Park Ave. has been estimated at \$3 million. It was moved Corombos and supported by Rosen to approve a \$2 million pass through of TIFA funds subject to a review by Mr. Jeff Aronoff of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone.

Ayes: 5 (Rosen, Corombos, Alessandrini, Farragh and Peterson)

Nays: 2 (Burke and VanLaanen)

Motion carried.

Discussion of City Manager Search

Discussion of Mr. Jim Urbany as a Consultant

Member Rosen stated he would like to use Mr. Jim Urbany as a consultant for the City. He would like the Labor Relations Committee to have a contract discussion with Mr. Urbany. Member Corombos stated that Mr. Urbany had been a contracted consultant for the City on an as needed basis. He believes the City Attorney has a copy of the prior contract that was used. Member Rosen stated Mr. Urbany would receive \$35 p/hour and would be used on an as needed basis. He stated that the direction of the reassessment is an example of a project that Mr. Urbany could work on.

Interim City Manager Stanchina stated the City received five to six resumes of interest for the City Manager's position. He said the resumes received were the result of August ads run in Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Michigan papers. Member Farragh feels that the Council should review the resumes received before spending any additional funds on advertising. Member Alessandrini would like to look at resumes and move the process forward.

No action taken.

Discussion of Open Dialogue

Member Rosen would like to have open dialogue at City Council meetings. He feels this important to have at the meetings. Mayor VanLaanen explained Robert's Rules of Order and why they are necessary for the Council proceedings.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to rescind Robert's Rules of Order and conduct the meetings as they were previous to officially adopting Robert's Rules of Order.

Motion failed unanimously.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Rosen to approve open dialogue at Council meetings and allow a public comment recognition period during agenda items.

Ayes: 5 (Rosen, Corombos, Alessandrini, Farragh and Peterson)

Nays: 2 (Burke and VanLaanen)

Motion carried.

New Business(cont.)

Council Committees

Member Rosen requested to be removed from the Health Care Committee and the Technology Committee. He felt that Member Alessandrini could replace him on the Health Care Committee and Member Farragh could replace him on the Technology Committee. Member Farragh requested to be an alternate on the Park and Recreation Committee.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to accept the committee appointments as modified.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Crossing Guard Wage Increase

Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that Iron Mountain Public Schools already approved a 2% increase for the crossing guards. He said the City pays one half of the crossing guard expenses.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the wage increase for the crossing guards.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

General Fund Reserves

CFO Bartolameolli stated that this is a June 30, 2008 year end readjustment of the reserved fund balance in the General Fund. Inventory \$43,380.18, Liaison Officer \$7,255.86, Delinquent PP Tax \$6,229.91 and Fire Safety House \$5,676.37 for total reserved amount of \$62,542.32.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to adjust the year end reserved fund balance per the memorandum from CFO Bartolameolli.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Cable Franchise Fee

Member Alessandrini feels the cable franchise is unfair. He asked if there were funds available to pay for the School Liaison Officer through 2009. CFO Bartolameolli and Interim City Manager Stanchina said there were funds available to pay for the School Liaison Officer. He would like to put funding for the School Liaison as referendum on the ballot. Member Corombos questioned why the cable franchise fee was ever connected to the School Liaison officer.

It was move by Alessandrini and supported by Rosen to eliminate the 5% cable franchise fee effective April 1, 2009.

Debbie Manderfield - 606 Fairbanks St. - thanked the Council for eliminating the cable franchise fee.

Ayes: 6 (Rosen, Corombos, Alessandrini, Farragh, Burke and Peterson)

Nays: 1 (VanLaanen)

Motion carried.

Accessory Structure

Member Alessandrini asked about an accessory structure that Mr. Don Maule placed on one of his properties. He stated that Mr. Maule received a letter from Planning Director Woolard that stated the accessory structure was on a lot that currently was a nonconforming use. The letter stated that an accessory structure is not allowed if the lot is nonconforming. Member Alessandrini asked if anything could be done to allow the structure. Member Rosen was concerned about the short time frame that the letter allowed for Mr. Maule to correct the situation. Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that he will discuss the time frame issue with Planning Director Woolard. He said that he will also discuss with Mr. Woolard, any possible resolutions to the problem.

No action taken.

Financial Reports

Member Rosen stated that he will abstain from voting on item #126 of the claims report because that item is from a business he now owns. Additionally, he stated the finance committee has asked for inter-fund transfers to be shown separately on the Claims Report.

Financial Reports (cont.)

The Council reviewed the Payroll Report for the Month of October with regular wages in the amount of \$302,100.27 and OT in the amount of \$22,038.27. The Council also reviewed Claims in the amount of \$681,652.37. The Finance Committee reviewed the claims and payroll reports and recommends approval as submitted. *Member Alessandrini asked why the City paid for the \$850 ALTA Survey for the sale of City property. He felt that the purchaser should pay for that expense. Acting City Manager Stanchina stated that the payer of this expense was included in the agreement.*

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Corombos to approve claims in the amount of \$681,498.14 which excludes item #126.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to approve claim #126 in the amount of \$154.23.

Ayes: 6 (Corombos, Burke, VanLaanen, Alessandrini, Farragh and Peterson)

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 (Rosen)

Motion carried.

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

Motion prevailed unanimously.

City Manager Report

Interim City Manager Stanchina stated that the City will look to close the sale of City property to Mr. Mark Blomquist. He said that one change will involve the developer having one year from the closing instead of site plan approval, to begin construction.

City Attorney Reports

Member Rosen disclosed to the Council that the Labor Relations Committee, of which he is a member, is negotiating with DPW and his brother-in-law is an employee. He stated that there is not a conflict of interest per the Charter and he would like the Council's thoughts on allowing him to proceed with the negotiations. The consensus of the Council was to allow Member Rosen to continue with the negotiations.

Committee Reports

Health Care Committee

Member Peterson reported that the committee met with the retirees to discuss options with the retiree's prescription drug costs. She said the committee will evaluate the feedback received from the meetings and decide how to proceed.

Mayor VanLaanen discussed the possibility of budget workshops. Interim City Manager Stanchina recommended the CFO, the Interim Manager and the Finance Committee meet and assess the situation for a budget amendment. Member Peterson said that ideas for budget savings were ignored in the original budget workshops. Member Rosen feels the finance committee could filter some of the budget ideas and then take it to a budget workshop.

Public Comment

Orice Walters – 211 Lehman Ave. – feels that the Council should adhere to Robert's Rules of Order. She would like the Council to look at Hydraulic Falls Rd. and she would like to see a YMCA come to the community.

Barb Kramer – 135 Bradley St. – would like the Council to look at the YMCA and development in the south corridor. She feels a frontage road connected to Hydraulic Falls Rd. could bring more development to the area.

Public Comment (cont.)

Mary Couper – 633 Detroit Ave. – thinks Robert’s Rules of Order should be used for the meeting. She thought that the Hydraulic Falls Rd. realignment was to address a safety issue due to the curves in the road.

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. – asked if an in-law was a conflict in accordance with the City Charter. City Attorney Pirkola said that in-laws were not addressed in the Charter.

Council Member Privilege

Member Rosen welcomed the new members to the Council.

Member Farragh stated that the City must address remodeling of the Police Department to allow better access for the squad cars. He said access could be limited to the existing garage if surrounding property owners do not continue to allow access through their property. Member Farragh stated that he spoke with the County and they have no plans to move Hydraulic Falls Rd. south of the railroad tracks. The drawing presented at a previous Council meeting showed the road going through private property. He said the County only has plans to straighten curves and repave the existing road. Member Farragh stated that placing the YMCA behind the hospital would be a great spot. He feels that the existing road through the Forgette’s property could be used for access.

Member Peterson agreed with Member Farragh’s statement that building the YMCA behind the hospital does not require the realignment of Hydraulic Falls Rd.

Mayor VanLaanen stated that a representative of the County attend Access Management meetings and would have been aware of the drawing showing Hydraulic Falls Rd. south of the railroad tracks, going through private property.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer