

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen

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

Also Present: City Attorney Pirkola

Agenda

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to approve the agenda with the addition of City Manager Applicant discussion as an additional purpose for Executive Session.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2008 were approved as submitted with the addition of the ALTA Survey discussion under the financial reports section.

Public Comment

Bob Moraska – 224 West D St. – thanked the Council for eliminating the cable franchise fee, the recent firefighter contract and removing chlorine from the water. He asked if there were any ordinances regulating the sandwich board signs on the sidewalk. He was concerned that could be dangerous.

Virginia Feleppa - 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. - stated that there are many uninsured in our area. She said the City employees have good insurance and was encouraged to see recent concessions that require employees to contribute a percentage of the premiums.

Old Business

City Manager Discussion

Mayor VanLaanen stated that the Council will discuss City Manager applicants in Executive Session because confidentiality was requested by the applicants.

No action taken.

New Business

S2 Sanitary Sewer Analysis

Member Farragh stated that the Infrastructure Committee met and discussed the available projects under the program. He said the City was recently notified that low interest loan funding will be available for the West B Street lift station and repair of sewer lines on East A St. He stated that the City must use 51% of the available funding which is \$970,000. This would result in the City not having to pay back the \$80,000 sewer analysis that was completed under the grant. Member Farragh stated the committee would like to replace the lift station and consider sewer repairs on the 700 and 800 block of East A St. Acting City Manager Stanchina stated that the interest rate of the loan is 2.5% fixed and it is for 20 years. Member Peterson asked if the estimates by STS could be more detailed to reflect engineering fees. She is concerned about spending \$500,000 to repair two blocks and would like to know if money would still be available if other critical projects surfaced while the loan was being repaid. Mayor VanLaanen feels that by repairing sewer on those blocks it creates an opportunity to replace old water lines and bad roads. Member Alessandrini stated that the committee did not feel a generator would be needed at the lift station. This would save approximately \$30,000 of the cost for the lift station. Member Peterson asked if the

New Business(cont.)

engineering would be bid out. Member Alessandrini asked if part of the \$147,000 for road construction could be paid for by the water fund. Acting City Manager Stanchina stated he did not know but would find the answer to that question.

No action taken.

Vacation Carryover Acting Manager

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Burke to allow Acting City Manager Stanchina to carry over his unused vacation leave.

Motion prevailed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Invoice paid through automated clearing, MERS \$33,492.76, 11/17/2008.

City Manager Report

Acting City Manager Stanchina stated that sandwich board signs were not specifically addressed in the zoning ordinance. He said that a new sign ordinance would establish regulations governing the signs.

Acting City Manager Stanchina reported that approximately 20 fire hydrants were replaced or repaired since the program started a couple of months back. Mayor VanLaanen would like to know some of the reasons the hydrants were in disrepair. Member Rosen felt that it was a lack of flushing that caused the hydrants to break.

Mayor VanLaanen felt it is necessary to have an engineer of record for the City. Member Alessandrini feels that we should bid out every job or every couple of jobs. Member Peterson stated that better map accuracy was the reason given for having an engineer of record. She said that software would allow maps from multiple engineering firms to be combined. Member Corombos would be in favor of bidding out all engineering jobs because he feels that competitive bidding would result in a lower cost overall than retaining an engineer of record. Member Rosen feels that the proposal could be for individual projects and a possible annual contract. Member Alessandrini would like to know how much work that STS already has into the lift station project.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Infrastructure Committee

Member Farragh reported that the committee met to discuss the west Lake Antoine Boat Launch. He is concerned that the original budget for engineering was \$5,000 and the actual expense was \$12,000. He said more research is needed to try and obtain a clear answer on why the engineering was so high.

Member Alessandrini explained that part of the problem was due to the engineers using 2003 State specs for the boat launch when the State had subsequently changed the specifications for boat launches when the Lake Antoine Boat Launch was built in 2006. He stated that this resulted in numerous comments from the State regarding items that needed to be corrected and resulted in extra engineering.

Public Comment

None

Council Member Privilege

Member Burke was concerned about Council Members attacking residents at the podium.

Mayor VanLaanen feels that Council Members should not challenge residents in the audience.

Executive Session

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and City Manager applicants. (7:40 p.m.)

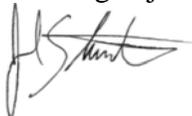
Roll call vote taken:

Burke	Y
VanLaanen	Y
Rosen	Y
Corombos	Y
Peterson	Y
Farragh	Y
Alessandrini	Y

Motion carried. (7 Yes, 0 No)

Regular Session resumed. (8:47 p.m.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer