

Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan to be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen
Present: Council Members Rosen, Farragh, Alessandrini, Corombos, and Peterson
Also Present: CFO Bartolameolli, Assistant City Attorney R. Pirkola and City Manager Stanchina

Agenda

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

VII. New Business

7. Stanchina - Stump grinding bid
8. Alessandrini - Stop sign placement

IV. Presentation of a TRICO Donation Re: Bat Cave Project -moved from VII New Business, number 1

Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2009 were approved as submitted.
The minutes of the Special Meeting of May 5, 2009 were approved as submitted.

Presentation of a TRICO Donation Re: Bat Cave Project

VanLaanen introduced Mr. Brian Simbob, leader of the TRICO team. VanLaanen also noted that TRICO initiated the creation of this project and was working in conjunction with the city's existing Bat Cave Project. Simbob asked Tyler LaVally, a student in Mary Meyers Career Preparation Program, and John Larson, a current TRICO employee, to speak about the project. LaVally conveyed the team's initial excitement about the selection of this project. He also mentioned that James Gitner and Britney Sundrum, photographer and historian, contributed to this project. Simbob offered the city additional pictures and a journal compiled throughout the project. He also spoke on the initial presentation TRICO made to Mayor VanLaanen. VanLaanen reiterated the cities appreciation.

Public Comment

Gene Ducharme – 1044 Carpenter Ave. – He respectfully requested that a public hearing on the proposed sign ordinance is held, due to the fact it will have a profound effect on the business community. He also conveyed that the whole business community should be involved in this process.

Public Hearing

Vacating Aragon St.

Stanchina presented the issue of vacating Aragon St. between Pine St. and Industrial Dr. He noted that the city had not maintained this road for a period of time, creating confusion on whether or not the road is vacated or abandoned. He said that he advertised for three weeks and notified all residents within 300 feet of Aragon St. VanLaanen opened up public discussion. Stanchina noted there were not utilities associated with Aragon St.

Public Hearing (Cont...)

Farragh supported this fact and noted that the city maintains an easement if future need arises. VanLaanen asked how the vacated property will be split up. Stanchina explained that the property gets split up evenly. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to vacate Aragon St. between Pine St. and Industrial Dr.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Old Business

Bid Opening

VanLaanen stated that the city had solicited bids for hydrants and fittings. Stanchina stated that 3 bids had been received and he proceeded to open them. The first bid was from Upper Peninsula Concrete with a grand total of \$61,595, \$1,850 per hydrants for 20 units. The second bid was from HD Water Works with a grand total of \$52,500, \$1,750 per hydrant for 20 units. The last bid was from Dave's Water with a grand total of \$53,823.75, \$1,770 per hydrant for 20 units. Rosen asked if Stanchina bid out the project with specific requirements for each hydrant. Stanchina conveyed that the detail existed, but he did not disclose it upon opening the bids, since the mater needs to be calculated more carefully. Corombos inquired if this matter needed to be considered by the fire chief. Stanchina voiced his opinion that this project is covered by the water department. It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to authorize City Manager Stanchina to let the hydrants and fittings to HD Water Works for \$52,500, assuming the specifications are met.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

New Business

Approval of Street Closure

Stanchina stated the 5th annual veteran's tribute ride requested the closure of River Ave. between E and F Street on May 23rd. He reported that they are requesting the closure from 6:30 – 10:00 PM. Stanchina conveyed that the tribute ride will start earlier in the day and leave from the V.A; the ride will return to Iron Mountain between 6:30 and 7:00 PM. He noted that a meal and concert will be taking place that evening as well. Lastly, Stanchina stated that the police chief has no objection to the street closure. It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to close River Ave. between E and F Street from 6:30 to 10:00 PM.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Police and Fire Pension Board

VanLaanen voiced his concern for the make up of the Police and Fire Pension board. He conveyed that the city council should appoint retirees to the pension board. VanLaanen stated that the council should discuss and approve a particular make up. Rosen asked if VanLaanen was looking to see how each member was appointed. VanLaanen conveyed that he had not seen any thing on appointing members to this board. Corombos asked if VanLaanen thought the board openings should be advertised. VanLaanen conveyed that the pension board should be handled just like the other committees are. Rosen stated that he did not have a problem with the pension board's members. Stanchina stated that the board must have a police officer, fire fighter, city treasurer, and the city appoints two other positions. VanLaanen voiced his concern for placing a council member on the board, could be a possible charter violation. Corombos voiced that a council member is still a citizen and having a council member may not be a bad idea. Alessandrini stated that he thought Rosen should be appointed to the Police and Fire Pension board. Rosen thanked Alessandrini, but requested that Corombos be nominated to this position. It was moved by

New Business (Cont...)

Alessandrini and supported by Rosen to appoint Jordan Stanchina to the Police and Fire Pension board.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Alessandrini voiced his concern over political implications. Corombos stated that he would rather not be on the board, since he was a professional in this arena. He voiced concern that he would be held to a higher legal standard. Corombos offered his help on a per-request basis. VanLaanen stated an additional concern that placing a council person in this position may violate the city charter; since a council person can not take another office. He stated that it may be best to ask the city attorney's opinion on this issue. Rosen asked if VanLaanen thought past decisions of this board could be challenged then. Alessandrini noted that the Police and Fire pension board is appointed. Rosen voiced that this board is just another volunteer board. Alessandrini suggested that a decision be held off till the next meeting. Rosen asked when the next pension board meeting is taking place. Stanchina said that a meeting will be taking place by June 15th. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to appoint Rosen to the Police and Fire pension board pending the attorney's review.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Proposed Sign Ordinance

VanLaanen conveyed that the new sign ordinance is still being composed. He stated that when the plan is ready it will be advertised and will have a public hearing. He noted the plan is still in the preliminary stages. VanLaanen conveyed that he would like to see the sign ordinance adopted. Alessandrini conveyed that it would be beneficial to sit down with the planning board in order to gain clarity of the possible issues that may arise. He stated that he would like to see this plan available to the public. Stanchina will be posting the draft on the website, pending receipt of the proposed sign ordinance. The Planning Board's Chair, John Nienstadt, conveyed that the project help would be appreciated due to the projects size. He noted that each committee member seems to have their own focus, so more comments are beneficial. Nienstadt noted that illustrations and tables are making the sign ordinance seem very long. He expressed that many parts of this new ordinance will relax the signage process. Alessandrini requested a meeting between the city council and the DDA. Corombos recommended each person reads the sign ordinance before the meeting. Rosen suggested we advertise this meeting. VanLaanen set a tentative meeting date for June 22, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

Public Comment – Magee Johnson – She conveyed that the DDA should be involved in this meeting, since they have worked on the sign ordinance. Linea Marchetti, DDA Chair, notified the city council that the DDA is having a busy week of June 22nd.

MEDC ICE program

Peterson entered at 7:28 PM

Stanchina stated that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation set out forms for their Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement program for spring 2009; they are due back by May 29, 2009. He communicated that the city had submitted a plan for this program before. In the past the city had request new road and infrastructure for: 600 and 700 block of Main Street, 500 and 600 block of Broadway and the 600 and 700 block of 5th Street. He conveyed that the improvements have to be in the Vision 20/20 area. Stanchina noted that the old proposal can be used again since the estimates in it are still good. He also added that sending a letter of intent does not obligate the city in any way; in fact this step is more to find out if the city can apply for this program. Alessandrini asked whey the city was not

New Business (Cont...)

awarded last time? Stanchina expressed that the scoring criteria at the time factored in the whole city benefiting; the MEDC did not feel this project benefited the whole city. He noted that this criterion has since changed, so the project stands a better chance. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to resubmit with some modifications the MEDC ICE program application.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

MML Regional Meeting

VanLaanen stated that the regional MML meeting is taking place June 3-5. Stanchina asked if any members of the council are interested in attending the event. Stanchina, Alessandrini and Corombos voiced an interest in attending the event. It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to send three council members and the City Manger to Calumet for the MML.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Stump Grinding

Stanchina presented the council with a proposal to get stumps ground. He sent solicitations to local contractors, since the amount was expected to be under \$3,500. He said that two separate stump grinding projects were solicited for: the cemetery and various stumps in town. The low bid came in at \$1,156, \$34 per stump, and \$3,390, \$30 per stump, respectively. Stanchina reported that only one company responded, Wirtz Tree Service; he was the low bid for both projects. Farragh and Stanchina confirmed that Wirtz Tree Service performed this service for the city last time. Alessandrini asked if this needed to be bid out. Stanchina noted that he send out the information to the local contractors. Rosen and Stanchina conveyed that many of the contractors expected Wirtz to get the bid due to his low prices. It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve the bid of Wirtz Tree Service for the removal of stumps in the City of Iron Mountain for the before mentioned amount.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Stop Sign

Alessandrini proposed that a stop sign should be placed at the intersection of Millie St, 3rd and Park. He conveyed that a citizen was unhappy with the speed at which automobiles are taking the corner at that intersection. It was noted that the resident's house had been hit twice in a 12 month period. The proposal is to keep a yield sign on 3rd and place a stop sign on Millie St. Stanchina noted that the Chief of Police did not see enough traffic flow to warrant a stop sign. Alessandrini noted that the traffic flow will probably increase after the school consolidation is complete, since more cars will be using that intersection on their way to school. Corombos asked if a yield sign would suffice. Farragh communicated that a stop sign had been in that spot several years ago, but was removed after road work was performed. Farragh and Rosen voiced their support for Alessandrini's proposal. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Rosen to place a stop sign on Millie St. at the intersection of Millie, 3rd and Park.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Reports

Financial Report

- Rosen reported that the finance committee met and recommended paying the Claims and Payroll for April 2009. Rosen noted his Abstention to item 104, since he owns Standard

Reports (Cont...)

Printing Company LTD. It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the claims and payroll excluding item 104.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve item 104.

Aye (5)

Nay (0)

Abstain (1)

Motion Passed

City Manager Report

- Stanchina briefed the council on the city's rubbish collection. He noted how many participants utilized the service this year: Monday 66, Tuesday 84, Wednesday 47, Thursday 87, Friday 68 and Saturday 129. He estimated that 22 loads will be dumped at completion, totaling 65 tons. Stanchina also reported that this year's event will cost about \$15,000, last year it cost the city \$35,000. VanLaanen asked how this year's tonnage compared to last year. Stanchina reported that it was comparable. Rosen publicly commended the city crew for their assistance in this project. VanLaanen asked if this was the last clean up of the year. Stanchina convey that it is planned to be the last one for the year.

- Stanchina reported on the flow meter study. He stated that the flow meters are still in place and working well, but a good rain may produce better results. He predicts mid-June to have a final report

- Stanchina reported that the surplus city equipment sale raised about \$5,600 and resulted in no ties.

-Stanchina said that Jonathan Ringle has been hired as the Main Street Director. Jonathan will be starting on June 1st. VanLaanen asked if the city council had to approve his hiring, Stanchina did not believe so.

- Corombos presented an idea to be considered; he would like to repave the intersections rather than a whole street or block. He felt this would work in areas where the street's pavement is in good shape and just the intersection is problematic. Corombos noted that the city crew may even be able to do some of the work. Farragh noted that the city use to create specifications for this type of project, he felt this type of estimation would not be very challenging. Farragh noted that each intersection would be noted in the bid sheet separately, allowing for the interested parties to view and bid on each site. Due to the distance between intersections and the set up time the price of the project may vary. VanLaanen asked if the Pacer rating system differentiates between the block and the intersection. He wanted to know if this would change the paving priority. Corombos conveyed that the Pacer System would look at the whole street. Farragh detailed the process of creating specifications for each intersection, as to allow for accurate estimates by the contractor. Rosen voiced his opinion that paving the intersections would be a good value for the money.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

-Rosen stated that WE Energies did an energy study to find ways the city could save money on energy costs. Stanchina is going to present the WE energies plan to the council in the future.

- Rosen reported that the cities water quality test came back positive, so the city water is clean. He reported that it has been a year since the city has chlorinated the water.

Technology Committee

- Farragh, member of the technology committee, stated that the City Attorney is working on the tower leases. VanLaanen noted that the Finance committee is the next step in the process, especially if negotiation is needed.

Public Comment

Kevin Pirlot – 603 W. Fleshier St. – Voiced his appreciation and support for the new rubbish collection system. He commented on his boulevard collection disapproval.

Council Member Privilege

- Alessandrini spoke about Toni Struts, a Vista Worker for Vision 20/20. She is leaving for another job opportunity. Her open house is May 29th, 2-4PM. Alessandrini spoke very highly of her work and voiced his support for her replacement.

- Peterson spoke on not having the bowling state champs and other groups; she believed there was a limit of 2 names per sign. Stanchina conveyed the same feeling on the sign limits. Stanchina said you could put up a sign for the city as long as it is not in the State right away.

- Rosen reiterated his appreciation for TRICO's donation to the city and recommended that Stanchina send a letter showing our appreciation. Rosen also stated there is a fundraising committee meeting for City Park, tentatively there is an event planned for July 11th. He noted that more details will be available at the meeting.

- Corombos said that the Operations and Management Committee will be meeting in the near future to lay out particular guidelines that make sense from a business perspective.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to adjourn.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48 PM



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer