

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan to be held on Monday, June 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen  
Present: Council Members Rosen, Corombos, Burke, Alessandrini, & Farragh  
Also Present: City Manager Stanchina, City Attorney Gerry Pirkola, & City CFO Bartolameolli

### **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Farragh to approve the agenda as submitted  
**Motion prevailed unanimously**

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 1, 2009

-VanLaanen Noted that the minutes had an incorrect date of "May 26"

### **New Business**

#### **Authorization to solicit bids RE: Gas Detectors**

Stanchina referred to the Fire Chief's memo relating to the purchase of two "SENSIT GOLD 4" Gas Detectors. Stanchina conveyed that the Chief felt these detectors were optimal for the Fire and Public Works Departments. The Chief also reported that the Public Works Department uses the gas detectors in conjunction with sewer projects. Stanchina speculated that the bid range would not vary significantly due to the nature of this project; so the project cost should be adequate to cover the purchase.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the purchase of two "Sensit Gold 4" Gas Detectors

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

#### **Authorization to solicit bids RE: Street Paving**

Stanchina relayed that an alternative plan is being compiled. He noted that the area between the two hundred block of Millie Street and Grand Boulevard is slated for repaving. Stanchina conveyed that under the proposed changes half the original distance would be completed this year, in lieu of completing 1800 feet of Lehman Avenue. Additionally, he noted the possible benefits of adding paving area to Fleshiem Avenue, as to reduce the number of stubs; especially, since Ludington Street will most likely be covered under the Small Urban Project in 2010. Lastly, Stanchina proposed the possibility of paving 170 feet of public right away on Smith Street. He noted that this section of road is currently comprised of eroding dirt and the final cost to complete this section with pavement would be in the neighborhood of six thousand dollars; this would complete all of Smith Street. Corombos confirmed that the amount of paving would be adjusted to accommodate the level of budgeted funds. Rosen stated that the council would have the ability to go over the bids before the final expenditures are approved. Farragh noted that the areas have to be measured and a plan assembled before the bid can be released. Stanchina confirmed Farragh's previous comment. Farragh then noted that area may be added as long as the quantity price is known. It was moved by Rosen and Supported by Farragh to allow city management to go out for bids on street paving as they deem necessary.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

New Business (Cont...)

**Authorization for parking lot closure RE: Farmer's Market**

Stanchina conveyed a request to partially close a city parking lot located on the west side of the 400 block of Stephenson Avenue. He noted that this request originated in anticipation of parking lot renovations where the farmer's market is traditionally held. Stanchina stated that the Farmer's Market is going to take place every Saturday between June 20, 2009 and October 17, 2009, between the hours of 7:30 AM and 12:30 PM. Corombos asked how much of the parking lot would be closed off. VanLaanen conveyed that in the past, the parking lot was closed off to through traffic between Hewitt and A Street. Jonathan Ringel, City of Iron Mountain's Main Street manager, stated that they were only requesting that the middle section of the parking lot be closed off for vendors. He also relayed that cars would still be able to drive around the closed section of the parking lot.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the requested parking lot closure for the farmer's market.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Authorization for parking lot and local street closure RE: Italian Fest**

Stanchina presented a request to close down the parking lot behind City Hall and the corresponding section of A Street from 5 pm on August 15<sup>th</sup> till 12 pm on August 16 for the third annual Italian Fest; the street would only be closed during the event on August 15<sup>th</sup>. VanLaanen conveyed that minimal traffic was allowed in though the above mentioned area in the past. Ringel relayed that this practice would be continued. Farragh stated that the motion should include waving the city noise ordinance till 12am on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to close down the parking lot behind City Hall and the corresponding section of A Street from 5 pm on August 15<sup>th</sup> till 12 pm on August 16 for the third annual Italian Fest, waving the city noise ordinance till 12 am on August 15, 2009.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of letters of understanding RE: Riverside Auto**

VanLaanen presented a letter of understanding involving Riverside Auto, Breitung Township, and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). He noted the letter was sent to him by Dave Bradley without his involvement in the negotiations. Riverside Auto agreed to close their southern most egress in lieu of MDOT widening the entrance to both Riverside and Bacco properties. He noted that the new egress would be built to street specifications, including proper width and curbing. VanLaanen reported the understanding with regards to this deal is that any future access will involve including the new egress with the new road's entrance. Farragh inquired as to why the City of Iron Mountain is involved in recognizing this letter of understanding? Stanchina stated that this project falls within the 425 area and could be part of Iron Mountain in the future. VanLaanen noted that Riverside is willing to give 7' of their property to this project with the remainder of the land coming from the Bacco property.

It was moved by Rosen and Supported by Alessandrini to approve the letter of understanding between River Side Auto, Breitung Township, and the Michigan Department of Transportation as submitted.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of contribution to the Lake Antoine Association RE: Eurasian Water Milfoil**

Mr. Jeff Jayne presented his request for funds to the city council; he conveyed that the pertinent details were well represented in his letter. Alessandrini asked if Breitung Township and Dickinson County also contribute to this effort. Jayne stated that last year the county and township both donated \$2,000, the city donated \$2,250. Rosen communicated opposition to increase last year's level due to the current budget

New Business (Cont...)

environment. Jayne commented that in beginning each municipality donated \$1500, so the city has really helped to set the donation bar. VanLaanen suggested that next year's request should be made sooner due to the timing of our budget process. Rosen reiterated his opinion of the cities fiscal ability and conveyed his hope that the other municipalities match what the city has contributed. He also relayed his support for the efforts the Lake Antoine Association has undertaken. Corombos informed Mr. Jayne that March or April would be more optimal for the city, since that is when the budget process is taking place. He also added that Breitung Township is on the same schedule as the city and the county would be best approached in January.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Rosen to donate \$2,250 to the Lake Antoine Association for treating the Eurasian Water Milfoil

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of resolution RE: Liquor License Transfer**

Stanchina presented the resolution to support the transfer of a liquor license from The North Side Café to Romagnoli's on Main Inc. Farragh asked if the police chief needed to sign off on this resolution, Stanchina stated that the police chief was in support of this transfer and that the transfer can not be stopped. Corombos conveyed a belief that not acting would stop the motion, however, he did not feel that was needed in this case.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to support the transfer of a liquor license from The North Side Café to Romagnoli's on Main Inc.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of annual dues RE: MML**

Stanchina requested the approval of \$4,458 for Michigan Municipal League (MML) dues, he recommended opting out of the legal defense fund. He conveyed that value is created by the many trainings and seminars they offer. Additionally, Stanchina noted the MML's advocacy efforts as they represent local municipalities in Michigan.

It was moved by Farragh and Supported by VanLaanen to approve \$4,458.00 to pay Michigan Municipal League dues for the City of Iron Mountain per City Managers Stanchina's request.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Introduction and setting of a public hearing regarding a sewer ordinance amendment**

Stanchina requested that a hearing date of July 20<sup>th</sup> be set to remove Section 66-61 from the Sewer Ordinance. He stated that Mr. Schneider of the Revolving Loan and Operator Certification Section recommended removing Section 66-61, industrial cost recovery, from the Sewer Ordinance since it is no longer valid.

It was moved by Corombos and Supported by Farragh to set a hearing on July 20<sup>th</sup> to remove Section 66-61 from the Sewer Ordinance.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of dues RE: Northern Michigan Public Service Academy**

Stanchina requested \$20 per employee, roughly \$1,060, to pay dues for the Northern Michigan Public Service Academy. He conveyed his support for their assistance in continued education. VanLannen noted that Stanchina is the city's alternate voting delegate. Stanchina confirmed this fact, but noted the inactivity of having this role. Alessandrini asked how much the city is paying for programs similar to this one. Stanchina noted there were several, but their cost was not significant. He also communicated that belonging to these organizations is very helpful in procuring affordable training.

It was moved by Alessandrini and Supported by Rosen to approve the dues at \$20 per employee

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

New Business (Cont...)

**Approval of State trunkline contract RE: MDOT**

Stanchina communicated that the proposed state trunk line contract is a standard agreement. Pirkola confirmed this assertion and called the agreement “adequate”. VanLaanen asked if the traffic signals that did not meet the state’s warrants were going to be the cities financial liability. Stanchina conveyed that he heard that and will check into that matter. Farragh conveyed his belief that this particular trunk line contract is for maintenance. Pirkola confirmed that he saw a stop light clause in the contract. Bartolameolli stated that the city already pays for 50% of the cost for lights where the city uses half the signal. It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to accept the MDOT state trunk line contract.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of fireworks display permit RE: Spielbauer Fireworks Co. Inc**

Stanchina reported that this request is to launch the Fourth of July fireworks from the same sight. He also conveyed that the same fundraisers are being done this year.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Burke to approve a fireworks display permit for Spielbauer Fireworks Co. Inc.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of roof replacement RE: Well house**

Stanchina requested funds to replace the roof on the Well house. He conveyed that during a rain storm the pump must be covered due to the amount of incoming rain water.

Stanchina also added that this project had been bid in the past and three proposals were received. Alessandrini suggested that the validity of the quote should be verified due to the projects time frame. Stanchina conveyed that he had already verified the projected project costs. He reported that the lowest bid was Markell Company with Lake State Roofing, Inc. and Okler Roofing following. Alessandrini asked why there were several options on Lake State Roofing, Inc’s proposal; Stanchina conveyed that it was due to the types of membrane used for the roof. Vanlaanen asked what size the building was and how the contractors had quoted the roof project. Stanchina reported that the contractors had measured and the building is 34’x36’.

Corombos inquired as to the roofs wooden base and its condition. Stanchina communicated this issue would be further explored when the membrane was removed. Alessandrini, Farragh, and Rosen conveyed their agreement that more would be known when the membrane was removed. Stanchina conveyed his belief that he would have enough purchase authority in the event the wooden bases needed to be replaced.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to award the bid of the well house roof to the Markell Company provided City Manager Stanchina can verify the warranty is equal to or better than Lake State Roofing, Inc.’s.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of council travel RE: Michigan DNR Trust Fund**

Rosen requested reimbursement for travel costs to a DNR trust fund presentation.

Additionally, discussion ensued as to the prudence of Rosen purchasing dinner for the Trust Fund Board Members. Pirkola expressed his hesitation toward this action.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to pay for Member Rosen to attend the DNR trust fund presentation.

Rosen	Abstain
Burke	Aye
Corombos	Aye
VanLaanen	Aye
Alessandrini	Aye

New Business (Cont...)

Farragh           Aye  
Peterson          AyeAbsent

**Motion Passed (Aye – 5, Nay-0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 1)**

**Approval of loan payoffs RE: Equipment**

Stanchina reported that Jeff Aronoff of Miller Canfield, the group that is assisting the city thought the S2 SRF bonding process, is recommending the city pay off all their outstanding equipment loans since they were not made in accordance to Public Act 99 of 1933.

Stanchina proposed that the Loader, Leaf Master, Holder, Squad car, Water Van and International Dump Truck be paid off in lieu of the Fire Truck. He reported that this would cost the city an approximate increase of \$60,000; however, not paying these loans off could alter the S2 SRF bonding process. Aronoff strongly recommended getting this bad debt off the city's books. Alessandrini requested clarification on this topic. Corombos communicated that the municipal bonding process is created to allow for public input.

Rosen asked when the loans originated. Corombos asked if the water van is coming out of the water fund. Alessandrini asked if we talked to First Bank about the fire truck.

Bartolameoilli stated that she had talked to them and the city could expect to gain .5% if we refinanced the fire truck. She also detailed the process it would take to accomplish the above goal. Corombos conveyed his lack of support for refinancing the fire truck. He communicated a belief that the city's investment will improve over the next couple years.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to pay off our outstanding loans on the Loader, Leaf Master, Holder, Squad car, Water Van and International Dump Truck in lieu of the fire truck.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of resolution RE: State Revolving Loan Fund bonding**

Stanchina explained that the city needs to advertise this S2 SRF resolution in the paper. He communicated that this resolution is basically notifying the city that borrowing is going to take place. Stanchina noted that the amount stated in the resolution is higher than expected, since projecting lower costs would create future difficulties in the bonding process. It was moved by Corombos and supported by Alessandrini to approve this resolution for publication.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of year end budget amendment RE: 2008-2009 Budget**

Bartolameoilli communicated that the majority of the adjustments to the budget are proposed to be made in the General Fund. She detailed what items will be adjusted.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve the amended budget provided by CFO Bartolameoilli.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Reports**

**Financial Reports**

**Claims and Payroll for May 2009**

The presented claims were \$2,093,319.48. Payroll was \$394,056.31 with overtime in the amount of \$25,242.83. Rosen noted that May's payroll included 5 weeks of pay and back pay per a collective bargaining agreement. He also stated that he would have to abstain on item #118 as he owns Standard Printing Company.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the payroll as submitted.

Reports (Cont...)

Rosen            Abstain  
Burke            Aye  
Corombos        Aye  
VanLaanen       Aye  
Alessandrini    Aye  
Farragh          Aye  
Peterson         ~~Aye~~-Absent

**Motion Passed (Aye – 5, Nay-0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 1)**

**City Manager Report**

Stanchina reported that the flow meters have been taken out and the data is being completed. He communicated that the goal of this study is to show how well our system is functioning.

Stanchina reported that the F Street project was originally going to be engineered in house; the city is currently left with incomplete plans. He also reported that in order to assess the condition of the underground utilities a camera is being inserted into them and a decision made from the provided images. Farragh noted that a sewer project would have to be bid separate from a road project. Stanchina noted that conditions still may change; more details are on the way.

Alessandrini asked Stanchina what he had found out about the railroad crossing on Main Street. Stanchina reported that he is checking into it.

Alessandrini asked Stanchina the status of the squad car. Stanchina communicated that the deals feels the warranty will not be voided if the necessary changes are made. He also added that a statement from the dealership is currently being looked at by the appropriate administration.

**City Attorney Report**

Pirkola communicated the belief that the city is not collecting adequate revenue for their tower leases. He is hopeful that at the end of the negotiations a more appropriate amount of revenue will be collected. Stanchina noted that the large cellular providers may be able and willing to pay more in tower leases.

Rosen asked Pirkola if he had looked at the charter language amendment. Pirkola conveyed his agreement that the proposed language was logical and made sense.

Corombos informed the council that the Attorney General has to approve the language change. Rosen's sentiment is that fixing this issue earlier would be preferable to doing it latter.

VanLaanen asked about the legal concerns of having a council person sitting on the Police and Fire Pension Board. Rosen communicated his belief that Pirkola's opinion is enough of an assurance. VanLaanen stated that he voted on this issue based on his legal guidance, he would like get a letter on Pirkola's letter head and with his signature. Rosen reiterated his concern for creating extraneous expenses for the city. Pirkola offered to not bill the city for his letter on this issue.

**Public Comment**

Bob Moraska - 224 West D Street – Moraska asked Burke several questions. The first one was "Do you believe as a council men that a myopic philosophy is the correct way to determine a city process and procedures, why or why not? The next question was "It is critical that a council person fully understand the principle financial aspects of city government, I am assuming and asking that you have a complete understanding of such? The last questions he directed toward

Reports (Cont...)

Burke is "How do you propose the city would cover the \$1,100,000.00 shortfall and what solution if any would you provide to keep this city solvent?"

**Council Member Privilege**

Burke passionately detailed his achievements. The first achievements that he spoke of were his efforts towards the beatification of Crystal Lake, including: planting additional trees, installing a stone barrier, developing an ice rink, building a basket ball court and miscellaneous improvement efforts. He communicated that he is involved in coaching both Little League and Girls Soft Ball. Burke conveyed his devotion and feeling of success in the areas of helping children and improving his community.

Rosen reported that the consolidated services committee meeting went well. He conveyed his feeling that working within this committee will produce positive results for the community. VanLaanen asked who sits on the committee; Stanchina noted that Iron Mountain has three council members, Kingsford has two council members and both the Iron Mountain and Kingsford City Manager's sit on the board.

Farragh requested that the council receives the monthly reports. Stanchina said they would be out the following week.

Alessandrini addressed a comment made by a citizen at a previous Planning Board Meeting. He communicated her concern about this council violating appropriate protocol concerning the zoning of duplexes. Alessandrini relayed that the council appropriately handled this matter and that the minutes pertaining to this matter are available for the citizenry to view. He stated the information was presented and voted on in the April 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Lastly, he noted that VanLaanen had voted against amending the ordinance pertaining to duplexes.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to adjourn  
**Motion prevailed unanimously**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 PM



Isaac Micheau  
Clerk-Treasurer