

City of Iron Mountain

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Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan to be held on Monday, August 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen
Present: Council Members Corombos, Alessandrini, Farragh, Rosen & Burke
Absent: Council Member Peterson (entered at 6:40)
Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Gerald Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

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

New Business

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 11 | Oak Wilt situation at City Park |
| 12 | Ad-Hoc Committee for Crystal Lake |

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2009

Approved as prepared

Public Comment (5 minute limit)

Jonathan Ringel-814 W. Fleshiem Street

He invited the council and public to Italian Fest on Saturday August 15, 2009. He noted that the event will take place from Noon till 11PM on East A and Iron Mountain Street. Ringel also invited everyone to attend the farmers market which takes place each Saturday.

Mike Miller-400 Lake Antoine Road

He introduced himself, and expressed his enthusiasm, as Toni Struts replacement as the Vision 20/20 program coordinator.

Old Business

Street Paving Bid Opening

Northeast Asphalt Inc.

706,521.20

Bacco

576,913.42

Rosen asked what the budget for paving was. Stanchina noted that the funds for this project come from many sources within the city; including TIFA, local streets & major streets. Corombos asked how the city will calculate the amounts due for TIFA and the city. Stanchina communicated that tonnage and millage has been calculated for each entity. Rosen enquired if the bid is very detailed. Stanchina relayed that the bids include mostly tonnage and bid bonds.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to award the bid to Bacco Construction pending review by the city manager that the bid specifications are met.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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New Business

Approval of resolution RE: Charter Amendment Language

Stanchina noted that the resolution and the ballot question are in the council packets. Corombos asked how this would affect people whose terms are set to expire in December. Pirkola noted that the AG will only act if the amendment is legal under the Home Rules City Act.

Peterson Enters at 6:40 PM

Corombos asked if there would be time to get this amendment on the ballot if the AG office rejects it. Pirkola communicated that the AG office acts quickly. Stanchina noted that any referendum must be approved by August 25th. Corombos thought we might want to make effective after a certain date so the language is less likely to be rejected by the AG’s office. VanLaanen noted that members will either have to serve a short term or have their current term shortened. He also noted this type of thing happened when the council went to a staggered term. Rosen asked Pirkola what he thought about the current language. Rosen noted that even if this issue does not make the ballot this election it will be on the next. Stanchina voiced that nothing could be done till the at large elections in 2010. Corombos asked how to correct the language if it needs to be corrected. Rosen conveyed that it would be best to fix this language if the AG raises an issue.

VanLaanen expressed a problem with how the language is written, he communicated that it seemed confusing the way it is written. Peterson agreed with VanLaanen. VanLaanen communicated that the paragraphs covering the old and new language should be better defined. Alessandrini asked if the council could have a special meeting next week to vote on this issue. A discussion about when the shortened terms would take place ensued. VanLaanen asked if we could propose two questions to the AG office. Pirkola stated that one question can be presented. Pirkola noted that the council is just voting on intent when approving this resolution. Rosen communicated that it would be best to submit the resolution with the paragraphs flipped. Pirkola reiterated that the AG is very quick when reviewing questions. VanLaanen asked Pirkola if we should have “after the election is certified”, the council seems to agree the language should stay as it stands. He voiced that he is not in favor of this change since there is not a significant lame duck issue. Rosen relayed that the currently elected council had to stand by and watch actions of the old council which are still harming the city today. Council conceded that some changes have to be made within the document. Pirkola noted that the appropriate changes will be made to put the resolution in proper form.

It was moved by Farragh and seconded by Rosen to support the resolution to amend the city charter

- Alessandrini Aye
- Corombos Aye
- Peterson Aye
- Farragh Aye
- VanLaanen Nay
- Rosen Aye
- Burke Nay

Motion Prevailed (5-Ayes, 2-Nays, 0-Abstentions)

Approval of dues RE: Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association (UPTRA)

Stanchina that UPTRA sends out information to encourage tourism into the UP. He communicated it would cost \$300 for the year. Peterson asked if we get a copy of the magazine they publish. Stanchina communicated that we get a paragraph in the magazine and on the website. Peterson asked if they let a community market themselves some; send information to them about ourselves. Stanchina will look into this.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by burke to approve the \$300.00 payment to UPTRA

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of traffic control order RE: Ice Cream Station Margaret Street Exit

Stanchina noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals approved Mr. Laydon’s variance as long as it is a right turn only. He communicated that the traffic order is need so the sign can be enforced. VanLaanen asked if curbing would be installed to assist in this. Stanchina confirmed that there would.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to approve the traffic control order as submitted by the Iron Mountain Zoning Board of Appeals

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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Approval to purchase RE: 3 Automated External Defibrillators

Stanchina noted that the existing Automated External Defibrillators (AED) are starting to wear and need to be replaced. He detailed that each unit will cost \$1,495.00 through the heartbeat program. Peterson asked if this price included any kind of training for the AED's use. Stanchina communicated that most anyone can operate them. Alessandrini voiced that he would like to see one in the explorer when it is used. VanLaanen asked Pirkola if the council can motion to purchase this equipment at state price. Alessandrini asked if we can bid this so our local companies can bid. Stanchina noted that we need these now and are buying them from Dickinson County Hospital; they are the main point of contact for area. Peterson asked if this is something that we should have in the fire trucks. Stanchina noted that the Fire Department has newer AED's already. Peterson asked if this is an item the department could do fund raising for. Stanchina conveyed that an AED is a necessary piece of equipment.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to buy three Automatic Electronic deliberators at the state price level

Motion Passed Unanimously

Approval of resolution RE: Safe Routes to School

Kevin Travilian presented that the city needs to change a few application lines and expand the current resolution. He noted that they sent a more elaborate example. Travilian noted they removed street construction from the program in lieu of new sidewalk. He noted that lots of sidewalk can be done without major street work. Stanchina communicated that we filled a notice of intent for the ICE CDBG. He relayed that the ICE grant will help to pay for some of the project costs. Corombos asked what the city's financial commitment to this project is. Stanchina asked if the grant covers engineering and design. Travilian noted that the state does not cover engineering, just construction; however, the federal grant will pay for design and engineering. Corombos asked how much money the city will have to put in and how much money the school will be putting in. Travilian relayed that the school has had a lot of input throughout the process, the schools has also been working on the program requirements. Corombos reiterated his question about the total projected project cost. Peterson asked how much has been spent on this grant already. Travilian stated that he has donated his services so far. VanLaanen noted that there is a safe route to school committee, so there has been lots of input by the schools. Travilian stated it would cost the city around \$200,000.00 for all the projects, around \$20,000.00 of that being engineering fees. VanLaanen noted that the engineering fees would be mostly for the retaining wall. Rosen recommended tabling this issue till the next meeting when the figures are correct. Travilian conveyed that he can provide a more detailed cost estimates at that time. Peterson clarified that the city is looking at engineering and street repair. Alessandrini asked if we can use money from other grants to cover some of the project costs. VanLaanen noted that there will be more traffic to the school than there was last year; by around 50%. Alessandrini communicated that the city can turn down the money if the engineering costs are too high.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Burke to approve the resolution for the safe routes to school grant.

Alessandrini	Aye
Corombos	Aye
Peterson	Nay
Farragh	Aye
VanLaanen	Aye
Rosen	Aye
Burke	Aye

Motion Prevailed (6-Ayes, 1-Nays, 0-Abstentions)

Discussion of MDNR Trust fund grant RE: City Park

Rosen communicated that the DNR Trust Fund Board informed him that it would be best to include an archery range in phase one in order to get the grant. Peterson reiterated that she had asked if anything else could be put in place of the archery range, she communicated that she would like to discuss this matter more. Rosen relayed that he felt the issue has been explained amply. Peterson communicated her reservations about people feeling safe with an archery range in City Park. She stated that she did not agree with developing the archery range. VanLaanen communicated that the archery range would be in a location of the park that is not really used now; he voiced his support. Rosen conveyed that if more people would have had a problem with the archery range, there would have been more people showing up to the Park and Recreation meeting.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to support the City Park grant application with the archery range included.

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Alessandrini Aye
Corombos Aye
Peterson Nay
Farragh Aye
VanLaanen Aye
Rosen Aye
Burke Nay

Motion Prevalled (5-Ayes, 2-Nays, 0-Abstentions)

Approval of letter of understanding RE: AFSCME

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Burke to approve the letter of understanding

Motion Prevalled Unanimously

Approval of salary adjustments RE: Administrative employees

Stanchina stated that his is looking for wage adjustments, for the CFO, Assessor and several other administrative employees. He reported that two administrative employees under the Police Chief are requesting paid time off in lieu of a pay increase. Stanchina recommended that Mr. Mulka should be moved up to what the wage range was for the Planning Director, putting Mulka at \$19.13 per hour. Peterson asked how increasing his pay would save the city money, wouldn't that still cost benefits and retirement. Alessandrini noted that he is already getting benefits and is getting things done quicker. Peterson voiced her concern for putting Mulka into this new position without advertising the job. Stanchina noted that he is just helping out the zoning administrator. Alessandrini voiced his support for not offering Mulka a cost of living increase due to his significant pay increase. Corombos communicated that Mulka could join the Kingsford insurance plan since he is a retiree; saving the city significant funds. Rosen noted that Mulka's wage adjustment would be retroactive anyways. The motion was tabled

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Alessandrini to allow the two part time employees in the Police Department to receive a week of additional vacation days plus the remainder of their 2.5% pay increase.

Motion Passed Unanimously

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Rosen to adjust the salaries of Chief Flaminio, Chief Johnson, City Assessor Esch and CFO Bartolameolli upwards by 2.5%.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Approval of policy change RE: Retiree health insurance

Stanchina noted that if you worked or retired prior to January 2006 you received a 58 and single insurance policy going forward. He noted that the goal of this policy change is to make things fair. Alessandrini reiterated Stanchina's efforts to create fairness.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Corombos to adopt this policy change. Peterson asked how discrimination occurred. Alessandrini stated that everyone hired after 2006 will have 58 and single policies.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Approval of letter of support RE: Cellcom grant application

Stanchina communicated that Cellcom is looking at bringing in a 3g wireless network into Dickinson County through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He reported that Cellcom is looking for support on their grant application. VanLaanen noted that we are in the edge of their service area and there are less expensive ways to do this than using a cellular network. Alessandrini asked if this will compete with other wireless networks in our area. Rosen relayed support for anyone coming to the city council for support of their grant application; he communicated that the city would not be committing anything by supporting this grants application. Rosen expressed his support for business competition. Peterson relayed the need to look at things closer before giving support. Burke voiced his support for encouraging business competitiveness. Alessandrini asked for more details on what 3g does. Stanchina clarified. VanLaanen voiced that this type of network is not ideal. Peterson expressed that more time should be taken to look at this issue.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to support a letter of support as requested.

Alessandrini Aye
Corombos Aye
Peterson Nay

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Farragh Aye
VanLaanen Nay
Rosen Aye
Burke Aye

Motion Prevailed (5-Ayes, 2-Nays, 0-Abstentions)

Oak Wilt

Rosen reported that five or six oaks in City Park have Oak Wilt. He reported that a beetle invades the tree and kills the leaves. Rosen reported that this issue needs to be addressed since the beetles can spread. He stated that the trees have to be cut down and burned. Virginia Feleppa communicated that you can't treat oak wilt in the growing season, has to be done in the winter. Barb Kramer noted that it can be very expensive for a private person to cure this matter. Stanchina will contact the MSU extension for additional research and report at the next meeting.

Ad hock committee for Crystal Lake

VanLaanen communicated that this new committee would be looking for solutions to clean up the pollution in Crystal Lake. He would like to appoint the committee to look at the issues in the lake and for funds. The members of the committee would be the following:

Gene Ducharme
Virginia Feleppa
Ann Hruska
Paula Shabapa
Harry Kleiman

It was moved by Burke and supported by Alessandrini to support the creation of an ad hock committee for Crystal Lake.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Reports

Financial Reports

None

City Manager Reports

Stanchina reported that the city has funds allocated to it for the ICE intent. He noted that the project will be \$390,000 with \$150,000 coming from the city.

Stanchina noted that the Standard and Poor's rating for the city went from BBB to A+. Peterson-what made it go up. Stanchina relayed that they are forwarding detailed information.

Peterson communicated that another accident has occurred at the Kmart Plaza intersection. She asked what we can do about the speed limit in this area. VanLaanen noted that Breitung has asked for a speed study in this area and reported that they choose the 85th percentile for the speed. Peterson relayed that it is not good to speed up right before a light

Peterson relayed that we need to give letters about the sign ordinance to the planning board.

Stanchina communicated that the sign issue is being considered. He will set up the next joint meeting. Rosen stated that he has received many calls relating to the sign ordinance. VanLaanen asked that we publicize the next sign ordinance meeting. Peterson asked what involvement CUPPAD had had with the master plan. Stanchina reported that they have done a lot of its creation.

Farragh reported that from Kent Street, North, to the city limits there are about 60 street lights; Between D Street, South, to the city limits there are about 60 lights. He would like to know what they are costing us. Stanchina will check into this. Corombos relayed that they may charge us just for having the light pole. VanLaanen asked if we could have an infrastructure meeting to talk about this.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Operations and Management Committee

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Corombos reported that the city has almost 30,000 invested in GIS already; he communicated that they want to see what it would take to get this working. He communicated that the committee would like to consider the return on investment for the technology investments into city hall. He spoke of the possibilities of using geo-thermal heat for the public works building. Stanchina reported that Mulka is looking at this issue; he is also looking at bids for the City Hall roof, Police Department roof and 2 roofs at the cemetery.

Parks and recreation

Peterson asked how we get an entrance gate installed at City Park; possibly two if both ends of the road are to be blocked off. Stanchina expressed concern for blocking off access to the park completely. Rosen noted that if only one way is open, there is no way to drive a car out if the police block the un-gated road. Peterson conveyed a need to get the gate installed soon. Stanchina will get a cost estimate for the gate.

Public Comment (5 minute limit)

None

Council Member Privilege

Alessandrini noted how nice the Khoury property looks since it had been cut. He would recommend grating the property early in the season so it is easier to mow.

Peterson thanked Corombos for his work on council matters.

Farragh requested that the DPW check and make sure all the city limits signs are present

Adjournment

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to adjourn

Motion prevailed unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48 PM



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer