

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 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen

Present: Council Members Corombos, Farragh, Rosen, Peterson & Burke

Absent: Council Member Alessandrini

Also Present: PCFO Bartolameolli, City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Gerald Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to approved the agenda as prepared

Motion Passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2009

Put the time Peterson entered in () in front of absent

Put names of ad hock members in the minutes

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Rosen to approve the minutes with the above corrections

Motion Passed unanimously

Public Comment (5 minute limit)

Milt Worth - 1219 Crystal Lake Blvd. – He noted that there is no pause in the pledge of allegiance between the words “under” and “God”.

Public Hearing

Alley vacation at 1521 N. Stephenson Avenue

Stanchina communicated that a few meetings ago Al Dumais requested an alley vacation. He noted that the requested vacation would not close off the Millie Street Alley. Stanchina reported that he did not receive any correspondence for or against the vacation.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Approval of alley vacation RE: 1521 N. Stephenson Avenue

Stanchina reported that Dumais is looking to open a small retail store and needs the vacated alley area for parking. He added that this area has never been used as an alley. VanLaanen clarified that the alley extends from Millie Street to Stevenson Avenue.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Farragh to approve the alley vacation

Motion Passed Unanimously

New Business

Approval of dues RE: Dickinson Area Partnership

Stanchina reported that the dues are set at 6,000 for each community. He added that the dues are not population based, so everyone pays in the same amount. Stanchina communicated that the Dickinson Area Partnership brings communities into our area. VanLaanen asked if this is a budgeted item. Corombos noted that he would prefer if there was a way to measure the outcome of this expenditure. VanLaanen relayed that he felt this is a good tool for us to have. Peterson conveyed that the city needs more collaboration with the partnership.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Rosen to pay the Dickinson Area Partnership \$6,000 in dues.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Approval of joint study

Stanchina reported that the joint study would look at ways cost could be reduced, while services are retained. Stanchina reported that Mr. Harvey will look at each community and see what Kingsford and Iron Mountain can do to save money. He

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added that the costs of this project will be split in half between each community. Stanchina communicated that regional departments will also be considered. VanLaanen asked if the study would look at public safety or two joint agencies. Burke noted that it would be best for the two towns to merge as much as possible. Rosen cautioned using the words public safety. He noted that a referendum would be needed to merge the departments, if so chosen. Rosen asked if he is going to look at public safety. Stanchina reported that he is going to look at all the options. He added that the Fire Department can cover two towns at a savings of \$500,000 a year. Corombos communicated that there has been no talk of them eliminating their fire department yet, most likely changes would be done with attrition. VanLaanen reiterated that this move would take time. Corombos conveyed that pension funds and employee contracts will need to be explored. Peterson asked if we are continuing the previous study. Stanchina relayed that Harvey will be looking at a new study. Peterson asked if the intent of this study is different and if other surrounding communities are interested. Burke noted that this study is between Iron Mountain and Kingsford. Corombos conveyed that there are already enough details with just Iron Mountain and Kingsford. Peterson relayed that the City of Iron Mountain was not looking for regionalization then. Corombos communicated things are just starting out. Rosen noted that it would be a more straightforward process with just Iron Mountain and Kingsford this way. Peterson reiterated that things were different then. Corombos noted that the City of Norway and Bruiting Township are in a different situation. Peterson communicated that public safety is being used in the title for no real reason. Stanchina noted that this detail can be put into a motion. VanLaanen voiced the opinion that surrounding communities will see our numbers when we have them, making changes more attractive. Peterson reiterated that she did not approve of the wording in the studies title; it is not just a mater of semantics. Corombos noted that either separate or together fire and police services are public safety. VanLaanen conveyed that he would not support this if it were just for looking at going toward a public safety department. Peterson reiterated her concerns for momentum towards public safety. Rosen relayed that the consolidated services committee is not going to create an environment for a public safety department. Corombos noted that the cities could possibly consolidate equipment to save money. He also added that the study is only \$2,700 and Harvey will only make recommendations. Corombos communicated that there will be many chances to look at consolidation issues before a vote takes place.

It was moved by Burke and supported by Rosen to approve a cost study for public safety in an amount not to exceed 50% of the total cost of the study or \$2,738.17.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

Motion Passed (5 Ayes, 1 Nay, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions)

Approval of generator repairs

Stanchina communicated that a fire at the well house caused a short in the generator and damaged the voltage regulator. He noted that Cummins is the only company who can work on the generator. Stanchina relayed that he started the project due to its urgency, including ordering parts. He communicated that if we need to rent a generator it is \$3,500, so the repairs almost pay for themselves. Stanchina noted that everything is being run through the insurance company first. Farragh communicated that Stanchina was recommended to start work on this project promptly. VanLaanen asked if we should do the preventative maintenance at this time. Rosen noted that we are looking at around \$8,700 for the total project. Farragh noted that when the maintenance is done the generator will be it top condition.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to authorize the repair of the regulator for \$5,121.86

Motion Passed Unanimously

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to authorized necessary maintenance in the amount of \$3,610.50.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Approval of salary increases RE: Code Enforcement Officer

Stanchina communicated that He, Mr. Mulka and the finance committee looked at the Code Enforcement Officers position. Stanchina reported that the agreed wage was recommended to be \$19.23 per hour, paid back to June 1st . VanLaanen asked if his benefits will go through Kingsford or Iron Mountain. Stanchina relayed that nothing can be done to avoid paying for the benefits. Peterson clarified that he will be receiving the standard benefits plus this salary. Corombos relayed that only the wage went up. Peterson asked how the position will be monitored. Stanchina communicated that we will be reviewing it in 3 months. Rosen noted the quality of his work ethic and output. He added that the committee thought he did great to this point.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Corombos to approve Mr. Mulka's salary at 40,000 per year retroactive to June 1, 2009.

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Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of appointment RE: part-time Assessor

Stanchina reported that City Assessor Eshe resigned on August 4th, in the favor of a new opportunity. He relayed that the county can't help due to a lack of staffing. Stanchina communicated that it took 6 months to find a level 3 assessor the last two times. Stanchina communicated that Rogina does assessing under another assessor and he can start right away, working 20 to 25 hours per week at \$25.00 per hour. Stanchina added that he would be available till the city can find a new assessor or decide what to do with the position. VanLaanen asked if the position was advertised. Stanchina stated that Rogina was the only recommended assessor in this area. Rosen noted that he knows our area well and can fill a level 3 assessing position. Peterson conveyed her support for hiring Rogina. VanLaanen voiced a concern that a lot has changed since Rogina was here. Stanchina reported that he is going to fill this position with another person or an assessing authority.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Peterson to support the letter of understanding presented to the council regarding Mr. Rogina as a part time assessor contingent upon Mr. Rogina agreeing to the letter.

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

Motion Passed (5 Ayes, 1 Nay, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions)

Approval of City Park Trails RE: Kingsford Cross Country Meet

Stanchina reported that this has been done in the past

It was moved by Burke and supported by Peterson to approve exclusive use of the City Park trails for the Kingsford Cross Country meet on September 15, 2009.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Approval of appointment RE: Housing Commission

Stanchina reported that Marylyn Shultz is being recommended for appointment to the housing commission by their board. It was moved by Burke and supported by Farragh to appoint Marylyn Schultz to the Housing Commission.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Discussion of Rental Rehabilitation Grant

Stanchina inform that council that individuals can apply for the rental rehabilitation grant. He reported that MISHDA offers grants to rehab units with commercial units below and living above. He added that a 25% match by the owner is required for up to \$25,000 per unit. Stanchina reported that the land lord only needs to track the first tenant's income, and then the tenant does not have to be low income. He communicated that the application deadline is in mid-September. Mr. Ringel, Main Street Manager, reported that having a Main Street Program really helps getting this grant. He is working with DICSA since they worked on the grant last time. Stanchina communicated that it would be best to work through the city and is targeted at Main Street. Rosen said that the program is primarily for the DDA, limiting the range to a 5 minute walk. VanLaanen clarified that the city puts in for the grant money for the multiple locations. Stanchina noted that there is a September and April awarding. Peterson asked if there is a minimum value. Stanchina reported that there is not. VanLaanen noted that rental prices would have to be controlled. Rosen conveyed that our community is below the low income rent amount. Peterson asked how the property owner pays the 25%. Rosen noted that the property owner has to have the money up front.

Approval of calendar page sponsorship RE: "Nature of Dickinson County" photo contest calendar

Stanchina reported that the city bought a page last year. He noted that it is \$200 this year.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Rosen to approve \$200 for the "Nature of Dickinson County" photo contest calendar.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Approval of meter cost transfer RE: Lilja Trust Committee

Stanchina included a letter from the Lilja Foundation requesting that the city assume some operational expenses. He reported that the Lilja Foundation did the landscaping in front of City Park, including lights they spent around 20,000 on the park project. Stanchina estimated that it will cost \$23 per month. He also reported that the Lilja Foundation is also working on the pit area, costing the city \$14.79 per month for irrigation and a possible light. Burke noted that the foundation has also helped at Crystal Lake. VanLaanen asked if they used spray irrigation, noting that possibly the

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irrigation could be extended to take care of area that use to have flowers. Rosen asked if the cost is the city park sign or a street light and if they are on a timer. Stanchina will check into this matter.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Burke to approve the transfer of the cost for the meters at City Park to the City and to add a meter at Chapin Pit

Motion Passed Unanimously

Reports

Financial Reports

Claims and Payroll for July 2009

It was recommended by the Finance Committee to approve the claims and payroll as submitted.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Burke to approve the claims and payroll for July 2009 Rosen

Abstain dues to #140, since he owns Standard Printing

Corombos	Aye
Burke	Aye
VanLaanen	Aye
Alessandrini	Absent
Farragh	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Passed (5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Abstention)

City Manager Reports

Stanchina reported that Bill Cook has not gotten back to him on the Oak wilt issue.

Stanchina spoke with Mike Premo from M-Dot and he conveyed that the signs can not be fixed until there is a speed study, he recommend asked for a speed study. Stanchina then detailed the process of receiving a speed study and a discussion ensued.

Stanchina noted that Burma, the cities insurance company, initiated a 2.55% increase in cost. He detailed that it would be \$2,562 more for the year.

Stanchina reported that the pavement pulverizing street machine is in town today, some areas of leman may need to be raised in order to add to the life of the road. He noted that the paving needs to be done by October 15, 2009. Peterson asked if the community been informed. Stanchina will put information regarding this matter on the web and a small add in the paper. Rosen suggested giving the paving information to the media so they could be aware. Corombos noted that the city never did this before

City Attorney Reports

Pirkola communicated that the Attorney General (AG) advised that the proposed language was not acceptable for the ballot. It was conveyed that the AG stated shortening an existing council member's term would violate the Home Rule Act. Rosen asked what language would be accepted. Pirkola said that he will be talking with the AG office tomorrow. VanLaanen asked what the deadline is. Pirkola stated that it is August 25, 2009.

Pirkola informed the council that he is still negotiating the tower leases, but can't discuss the details at this point.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Rosen reported that the committee discussed overtime in the police department, it was just over 12,000. He noted that last year it was about the same amount. Rosen stated that this is the first year of using a Health Savings Account, meaning that after 25 years the city will not need to pay for insurance for this person. He expressed how much this will help the City in the long run. Rosen communicated that a counseling session with the new employee would be best. Stanchina reported that the bank will take care of this. Bartolameolli noted that they need to make this work.

Farragh noted that the Infrastructure Committee worked on sewer study talks with Breitung Township

Burke relayed that the Parks and Recreation committee met with the Crystal Lake ad hock committee to look at cleaning up Crystal Lake. He reported that they are looking at raising \$25,000. Rosen added that the condition of the cities tot-lots and tennis courts are being considered.

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Public Comment (5 minute limit)

Kevin Pirlot-603 w Fleshiem- He conveyed that sharing an assessor is a great idea. He added that Mr. Harvey is an expert in local units of government. He urged the council to look at what level of service they want. He noted that the Fire Department has excess capacity and that the ISO rating and response time is always a factor. Lastly, he conveyed the opinion that the city has saved significant money in the last 12 months.

Council Member Privilege

Rosen thanked the city of Kingsford for working together as one, and noted that he is encouraged.

VanLaanen noted how well the main street manager and his volunteers worked during Italian Fest; He proceeded to list those individuals he felt were the 3 best volunteers. VanLaanen listed the following individuals: Jinx Brew, Paula Santoni and Chris Lavene.

Adjournment

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Burke to adjourn

Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:02



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer