

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 Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen

Present: Council Members Corombos, Farragh, Rosen & Alessandrini

Absent: Council Members Burke & Peterson

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Gerald Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to accept the agenda as submitted.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2009

Stanchina noted that member Peterson voted no on the public works study, the motion did not prevail unanimously

Approved with the above changes

Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 21, 2009

Approved as submitted

Old business

None

New business

Approval of street closure RE: Harvest on Hughitt

Stanchina noted that a request has been made to close Hughitt Street between Iron Mountain Street and Stephenson Avenue from 1 - 4 on October 17, 2009. VanLaanen asked if the parking lot project will be completed by this point. Stanchina relayed that they will be close. VanLaanen asked if the parking lot will be useable. Stanchina communicated that it should be in a gravel state so it would be available for parking.

It was moved by Alessandrini supported by Farragh to approve the street closure of Hughitt Street between Iron Mountain Street and Stephenson Avenue from 1 - 4 on October 17, 2009

Motion passed unanimously

Approval to solicit bids RE: Replacement of cemetery roofs

Stanchina noted that the office building and chapel need new roofs. He noted there is \$20,000 in the budget for this project. Stanchina communicated that both asphalt shingles and a metal roof option will be considered. He relayed that some rot on one of the building's roofs is probable. Alessandrini asked if the city can get a unit cost on sheeting install. Corombos noted that the vault building had a sway to it and a chimney that is not used that should be removed. VanLaanen asked how this project can be done so the project is not held up after it is started. Corombos communicated that the bid should included the possibility of replacing the whole roof. Stanchina noted that if the extra cost is below \$3,500 he can approve it. VanLaanen asked if it is easy for a contractor to see the damage to the trusses. Farragh relayed that any contractor will look at it in detail before bidding the job. Corombos noted that a contractor and carpenter may need to be involved on this project.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to solicit bids for the replacement or repair of the roofs on the office and chapel building

Motion prevailed unanimously

Tax tribunal case

Stanchina relayed that the city has a tax tribunal with Wis Pac. He noted that Northern Star Industries has bought this building and had the tax level adjusted. Stanchina informed the council that they would be approving the assessor to lower this tax value and send a letter to Wis Pack. Farragh noted that the city would need to refund their taxes. Stanchina confirmed this and stated the refund would be \$22,000, with half coming from TIFA.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Rosen to approve the proposed settlement

Motion passed unanimously

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Discussion of WE Energies rate increases

VanLaanen asked if a letter of support is being looked for. Stanchina communicated that WE Energies can not do increase till the building is put into service. VanLaanen asked if we are objecting to the increase or its timing. Stanchina stated that it was such a large increase at one time. VanLaanen conveyed that the increase is due to building a new facility. He asked if we will be seeing more of this. Stanchina communicated that he believed this will be it for a long time. VanLaanen noted that if demand goes up, he would be concerned. Rosen relayed that cap and trade may also go through, with a substantial increases. Stanchina voiced that the city pays \$210,000 for the city each year, not counting the proposed 33% increase.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to author a letter of objection to the electric rate increases.

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of DPW Supervisor Salary

Stanchina is looking to get a salary approved for the newly appointed DPW Supervisor. He relayed that the salary would be set at \$58,500. Stanchina added that creating the position will create no additional hiring.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Alessandrini to approve the DPW Supervisor's salary.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Approval of personnel policy manual revision RE: DPW Supervisor

Stanchina relayed that all public works departments would be under Mr. Dinnocenzo's authority. VanLaanen asked if the City Attorney was asked about this change. Stanchina stated that he felt it was acceptable for this situation. Farragh noted that Stanchina may want to change a section so all the purchasing goes through the DPW supervisor, including tools and such.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the recommended changed to the personnel policy manual.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Discussion of squad car replacement

Stanchina reported that one of the city's 2 year old Crown Victoria was in an accident. He reported that it would take \$9,900 to repair it, but the insurance will pay \$10,000 for the car. He added that one impala dropped a transmission, the axel on the new Crown Victoria is not working yet and the other impala transmission is going. Stanchina relayed that it would take 3 to 4 months. VanLaanen asked if it would be safe to use the emergency purchasing section in the purchasing policy. Pirkola stated that the city needs to get a squad car on the road, especially since the other one was in an accident. Farragh asked if the car could be bought from MI-Deal. Stanchina relayed that MI-Deal could be cheaper than the state price. Pirkola relayed that he was not crazy about mi-deal before, but he is not sure why. He communicated that it would be best to use the bidding process. Rosen voiced that there is very little additional cost. Stanchina requested that the authorization to buy or bid if a car is not readily available. Alessandrini asked if the police chief would check with the local dealers. Farragh noted that the city can bid a 2009 or 2010 if they bid.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Corombos to invoke the emergency purchase provision to purchase a vehicle for the police department not to exceed \$20,800 and compel the city manager to bid out a police squad car if one is not otherwise available.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Approval of the Preliminary Plat RE: Millie Hill Subdivision

Stanchina communicated that a new preliminary plat has been created due to feedback from the state. VanLaanen asked if there was any changed information as the city is concerned. Stanchina stated that there is not.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to approve the Millie Hill Preliminary Plat contingent on approval of MCL 560.113-119.

Motion prevailed unanimously

Reports

Financial Report

VanLaanen stated that the MERS invoice was paid on 8/19/2009 for \$27,450.93

City Manager Report

Stanchina reported that the joint study with Kingsford has been approved in Kingsford. He added the Mr. Harvey will be in town to meet with the city managers on September 21 and 22. Stanchina relayed the Mr. Harvey would like to meet with the managers and get a feel for what the cities want.

Stanchina reported that all the streets have been pulverized and milled and some streets are being paved

Alessandrini asked what point the champion easement is at. Stanchina relayed that the state is working on it.

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Farragh asked if Stanchina heard anything on our speed study. Stanchina relayed that it would most likely be the whole corridor for both the township and city.

VanLaanen noted that there was some confusion on who was going to handle the emergency calls during the recent gas line incident. Stanchina communicated that Bacco did not think about calling 911 because they normally call the gas company first. He relayed that no one thought to call 911. Stanchina relayed that he spoke with Bacco. VanLaanen asked if the gas company would call 911. Stanchina voiced that the gas company does not do anything till the leaks size is considered. Rosen noted that many gas lines have been hit in town and protocol would be set up for this event. Stanchina relayed that a gas leak is not as bad as many people think.

City Attorney Report

Rosen asked how the tower leases are going. Pirkola reported that he is closer then he was last month.

Committee Reports

Negotiating committee

Corombos reported that the negotiating committee will be meeting with the police.

Operations and Management

Corombos asked what can be done about the \$200,000 spent on the reassessment. He relayed that it can probably be completed within the year. Corombos emphasized that there was never an order of request from the state to do a reassessment. VanLaanen noted that he is also a member of this committee and Mr. Corombos does not reflect his views.

Parks and Recreation

Stanchina reported that the Little League would like to move the fence out to 290 feet from 210 feet. He noted that the fence is being moved without city expense. Chappin and Bacco field is looking at getting a new press box at each. He reported that the box at Chappin field is getting built by Izzo Marriucci and vision 20/20 is do the box at Bacco field. VanLaanen asked if the Chappin field have a small water line. Farragh relayed that the fields line if off the community center. A discussion of the water lines ensued.

Public Comment

Bob Moraska- West D Street- he relayed that a couple of council members are missing or late often and asked if this can be corrected. Moraska communicated that he would like his representative to be on time and serve his district, unless these members are not needed for this council. He relayed his understanding that the kids are important, but then you may not want the responsibility of being on the council. VanLaanen stated that the charter says you can not miss 3 regular meeting of the council. Rosen added that you can be voted off if you miss 3 regular meetings of the council. Stanchina noted that Burke notified him. Rosen voiced that no council member has missed 3 consecutive meetings, so the council can not vote anyone off. Moraska asked what can be done about tardiness. Rosen said that nothing can be done.

Council Member Privilege

Rosen commented on a letter from a concerned citizen. He reported that the only way the city could get a skate park is to put it in City Park due to DNR Trust Fund grant money. Rosen conveyed that budgets would not allow for an alternate location for a skate park.

Corombos asked if the B Street lift station going to get done before spring. Stanchina conveyed that both will most likely be done next spring.

Rosen noted that Oak Wilt has affected a 2 acre area of City Park. He added that trenching will be done free of charge with the remainder of the project being completed this winter.

Alessandrini asked for clarification on the time and attendance issue. He also added that the DPW did a good job on the man holes. Stanchina voiced that they are doing the non essential ones next.

VanLaanen voiced that we are all sensitive for missing meetings and unfortunately there is no process for putting the reason in the public record. He added that it would be most fair if the audience assumed they have a good reason to miss a meeting.

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Adjourn

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to adjourn

Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:42

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaac P. Micheau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "I".

Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer