

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, November 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Peterson

Present: Council Members Corombos, Farragh, Rosen & Alessandrini

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & Chief Financial Officer Bartolameoli

Approval of Agenda

Stanchina requested that the public hearing be removed from the agenda as the first item of Old Business. Rosen requested that a discussion pertaining to installing a gate at the entrance of City Park be added under New Business. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to approve the agenda with the above corrections.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 2, 2009

Approved as prepared

Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 6, 2009

Approved as prepared

Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 10, 2009

Approved as prepared

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Approval of CDBG resolution and grant application RE: MEDC ICE

Stanchina informed the council that he was told the public hearing was completed too early, thus it would have to be redone. He then communicated that he was later informed that he was given incorrect information and that the first hearing was done properly.

No action was taken

Discussion and consideration of appointment RE: Tree Board

Alessandrini asked if the tree board would be telling people what type of trees they can plant on their personal property. Barb Kramer, 135 Bradley Street, conveyed that the tree board would be under the direction of the City Manager and that it must follow the City Ordinances. Peterson asked if the Tree Board does the approving of tree removal. Kramer relayed that the Tree Board is just an advisory board. Corombos noted that the City Ordinance conveys that only certain trees or species would be approved for planting on public property. He communicated a possible conflict between who does approving in each particular situation. Peterson noted that the City Ordinance does not clearly mention anything about council approval when tree removal is considered. Stanchina communicated that the council would have input when a tree is being considered for removal. Rosen expressed the opinion that the city could already act when a tree is impeding the municipal utilities. He asked what is done currently when a tree is impeding utilities. Stanchina communicated that he has never had to have a tree removed due to utility interruption. Rosen asked Farragh if he had experienced this situation. Farragh noted that he has seen this situation mostly with home owners having roots growing into their own sewer system. Kramer noted that tree trimming in a city is normally divided up and the Tree Board does preventative maintenance and recommends removal. She relayed that an expert in this subject can educate the public on items such as tree trimming. Kramer also noted that the tree board can research and apply for grant money. She conveyed that the tree boards can advise the City Council on these issues. Peterson expressed her concern for section 70.62 of the city ordinance. She noted that she would like to see a secondary check

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developed in the ordinance, in the event some non-expert get on the Tree Board and start making inappropriate decisions. Corombos communicated the opinion that section 70.64 and 70.65 calls for a licensed arborist. Kramer informed the council that Clark Lebo and Fred Cheshire are experts in this subject. Corombos reiterated the opinion that the city would have to hire an arborist to maintain its trees. Rosen supported the opinion that the ordinance would require an arborist. Alessandrini asked if we need to have a tree board to apply for grant opportunities. Kramer confirmed that they would have to be a Tree Board to apply for grants. Stanchina noted that people are not likely to pay someone to do their tree trimming and the city is exempt from the ordinance. Alessandrini asked if this ordinance would limit competition. Corombos communicated the opinion that section 70.65 requires that even private trees would need to be trimmed by an arborist. Rosen relayed the idea that section 70.64 would require the city to use a licensed arborist. Farragh suggested that the Tree Board members could meet with the Infrastructure Committee to fine tune the ordinance. Peterson asked the tree board's opinion on section 70.66 of the city ordinance and whether or not they would want to handle enforcement. Corombos noted that the ordinance would require additional insurance coverage by the arborist. Peterson communicated the idea that the ordinance requires a licensed arborist. Rosen voiced the opinion that this would create another bureaucracy. Corombos expressed that he would like to see the terms agreed upon now. Peterson noted that she would like to see the ordinance fixed before the committee is approved. Peterson asked Kramer how much time there is until the grant application is due. She relayed that there is a fair amount of time until the grant is due. Rosen noted that it the Tree Board would be valuable if we get the DNR trust fund grant for City Park.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Rosen to appoint all five applicants to the tree board.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Three year term	Two year term	One year term
Clark Lebo	Sally Jacobs	Kathleen Anderson
	Virginia Feleppa	Fred Cheshire

New Business

Approval of General Fund Reserves

Bartolameoilli communicated that a certain amount of money is determined to be non-expendable every year due to items such as delinquent taxes and inventory. A discussion pertaining to the funding of the liaison officer ensued. Peterson asked if the remainder of the cable franchise fee could go toward street paving. Rosen noted that the funds will be looked at during the budget process.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Corombos that the General Fund Reserves be approved.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Authorization to submit requests for proposals RE: 2010 Small Urban Project

Stanchina stated that this program provides money to help pave roads. He noted that the city currently has \$223,000 worth of eligible roads, most notably 1,800 feet of Park from 3rd street to Millie Hill Drive and Kimberly Avenue extending from Fairbanks to Kent Street. He added that these projects must be completed using engineers. Alessandrini asked how much the city would have to pay on the project. Stanchina answered 20%, which is \$55,252 in this case.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to recommend staff action on this matter.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Discussion of placing a gate at the entrance of City Park

Rosen communicated that he had asked Stanchina to check on the cost of a gate for the entrance of City Park. Stanchina reported that a gate would run between \$3,000 and \$4,000. Rosen communicated that there are vehicles and mischievous behavior at the park in the evening. He suggested that only having one opening available in the evening would allow any violating vehicles to be trapped in the park if the Police are patrolling on the one remaining road. Alessandrini asked why there was there never a gate installed at City Park. Farragh expressed the opinion that one gate will not stop cars from going in there. Peterson noted that the police could get into the park easier with one gate. She conveyed that opinion that she would prefer two gates and having them locked when the park is closed. Alessandrini suggested putting up a sign on the exit and locking up the entrance, while enforcing the listed penalties. Rosen suggested placing the sign at a better location. Corombos asked if the Police patrol the park with any regularity. Rosen raised concerns for who is going to lock and unlock gate and the associated costs. Stanchina communicated the opinion that if the Police are on a call, the gate will get left open. Farragh echoed the previous opinion. Rosen conveyed that he is just looking at finding a starting point. Farragh reiterated the opinion that the gate will not get locked every night. Corombos asked if there is a way and what it would cost for an automatically closing and locking gate.

No action was taken

Reports

Financial Reports

1st Quarter Report

Bartolameolli reported that there are no real areas of worry at this time. She noted that the council may want to do a budget amendment for the money that was allocated to the Motor Vehicle Fund due to a decrease in loan payments, the majority of which were paid off last fiscal year, and the replacement of a squad car. Bartolameolli noted that TIFA's allocation for paving and the parking lot reconstructions were spread over two fiscal years; so there is a likely need for a budget amendment. She noted that due to the Well House fire, there were some extra costs to the water fund and a budget amendment will most likely be needed. Peterson asked if the totaled squad car had replacement insurance. Bartolameolli noted that the only city vehicle that has replacement cost is the fire truck. Alessandrini noted that insurance for the fire truck is probably more expensive. Bartolameolli confirmed that notion. Peterson asked when the shortfall from the State of Michigan will show up in the city budget. Bartolameolli communicated that the loss of revenue will show throughout the year, she added that she would provide something for the council on the 1st of the year. Rosen noted that the General Fund expenditures are at 29.47% and that the overall expenditures are at 29.65%.

Approved as prepared

Annual Investment Report

Bartolameolli communicated that the city's overnight rate has not been optimal lately. She noted that this is the reason she does not want to invest too far in the future, due to the hope that rates will increase. Peterson asked if the overnight rate was the reason for voting on Citizens bank as a depository. Bartolameolli confirmed this. Peterson confirmed that the strategy being employed is keeping investments short term till there is an increase in interest rates, then lock in for a longer commitment.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the Annual Investment Report and the 1st Quarter Report.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

October Claims and Payroll

Corombos reported that the finance committee approved of the Claims and Payroll. Alessandrini asked why the overtime for the Police Department was so high. Rosen noted that October is a five week month and an officer is off due to an operation. He added that overtime for the Police Department in October was \$18,068, compared to \$9,800 last year. Stanchina noted that the additional 120 hours of overtime that was incurred due to the ill police officer will be reimbursed. Peterson asked what how much of the overtime cost was due to the workman's compensation issue and how much will the city get back. Rosen communicated that the overtime added up to \$3,600 and that the city could expect to get a reimbursement of \$2,200. Stanchina noted that \$7,000 of the overtime was for sick leave. Peterson confirmed that the Fire Department had overtime in the amount of \$7,673. Rosen communicated that he had been okay with the level of overtime expenditures when it was between \$2,000 and \$4,000 a month. However, he conveyed that the level of overtime expenditures in October has been too high. Peterson asked if personal leave is a factor, since the end of the year is approaching. Rosen seemed to confirm that assertion. Stanchina relayed that the Police Departments overtime was around \$10,000 per month and now it was at 19k this month.

Rosen noted his abstention from line item 135, due to the fact that he owns the Standard Printing Company.

Farragh noted his abstention from line item 75, due to being the recipient of the funeral flowers.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Farragh to approve the Claims and Payroll excluding line item 135.

Rosen Aye

Corombos Aye

Peterson Aye

Alessandrini Aye

Farragh Abstain

Motion Prevailed (Aye-4, Nay-0, Abstain-0)

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to approve line item 135

Rosen Abstain

Corombos Aye

Peterson Aye

Alessandrini Aye

Farragh Aye

Motion Prevailed (Aye-4, Nay-0, Abstain-0)

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City Manager Reports

Stanchina noted that the previously mentioned decrease in our tax base was .3% on the taxable value, not a .3% decrease on the tax revenue.

Stanchina reported that Markell Co. has completed the asphalt shingle roofs at the cemetery and they are finishing the Police and Fire Building and City Hall soon. Alessandrini asked how long the roofs are guaranteed for. Stanchina conveyed that the membrane roofs on City Hall and the Police and Fire Building are guaranteed for 25 years, while the shingled roofs at the Cemetery are guaranteed for 30 years.

Stanchina noted that the city is meeting with James Peterson and Sons about the lift station on B Street and East A Street. He relayed that the construction has been moved into next year.

Stanchina relayed that Jim Davis from MISHDA will be holding a meeting at City Hall to talk about the Rental Rehab Program on November 17, 2009 at 7:30 a.m.

Peterson asked if CUPPAD is involved in developing the comprehensive plan. Stanchina communicated that CUPPAD has been involved in the process. Peterson asked what portion is being completed by CUPPAD. Stanchina noted that they mostly did the back ground material. Peterson asked how much public input there has been on the plan. Stanchina stressed the need to develop a base before input is taken. Peterson asked if there is going to be input other than at the public hearing. Stanchina communicated that an open public hearing can be held.

Farragh asked about the progress of a speed study in the area of the Kmart corridor. Stanchina reported that MDOT is doing a preliminary, since the results of the Michigan State Police Study are binding at what ever level they determine to be optimal.

Farragh inquired as to the progress of the snow plow safety program. He noted that Kingsford held their two weeks ago. Stanchina relayed that the program will be held in a couple of weeks.

Alessandrini asked if there is an ice rink developed on the North Side Field. Stanchina added that there is also an ice rink place at Crystal Lake. Alessandrini asked if an ice rink could be developed on the old TNT site, located on 5th Street. Farragh conveyed that the blackout would not be optimal for the development of an ice rink.

Alessandrini asked if the city is planning on purchasing the property where the Ranger Field participants currently tend to park. Stanchina conveyed that the purchase of that property is being planned for next year's budget.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

None

Public Comment

Virginia Feleppa-1136 Crystal Lake Blvd.-She conveyed the opinion that the Police could lock the gate at City Park when they check on it, even if it is after 11 p.m. Rosen reiterated his concern for the man hours that could be consumed by the gate at City Park.

Marsha Bonicatto-738 E A St. -She communicated the opinion that installing a gate will not slow down kids who want to go into City Park and party. She made the case that not every place kids go to get into trouble can have a gate placed on it.

Council Member Privilege

Peterson communicated the opinion that if there is illicit activities happening at City Park, the police need to monitor it as part of their job. Farragh noted that there was a gate placed at the entrance of Goulette Park before and it was used for 2 months.

Alessandrini asked if a meeting was set to fill the vacant City Council positions.

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Peterson reiterated her gratitude for the Lilja funds efforts

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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