

City of Iron Mountain

501 S. Stephenson Ave
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
Telephone: 906-774-8530
Fax: 906-774-3774

Email: clerktreasurer@cityofironmountain.com

Website: www.cityofironmountain.com

Regular Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan to be held on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Peterson

Present: Council Members Corombos, Farragh, Rosen Villa, Jacobetti & Alessandrini

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

Peterson noted that a special presentation for Brad Maki will take place between Public Comment and the Public Hearing. It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve the agenda with the above changes.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2009

Rosen asked that a portion of his statements pertaining to overtime expenditures be reviewed.

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 23, 2009

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Corombos to approve the minutes as prepared.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

Richard Raho-909 Houghteling Street-he asked if the city has any plans concerning the deer population in town. Raho added that several deer have been hit by cars and that the deer have been eating items they have not in the past. He voiced his concern that Predators could enter town to hunt the deer. Raho conveyed the idea that the deer may also spread disease. Peterson communicated that the city does not currently have plans to deal with this problem; however, it is an issue that needs to be addressed. She asked what was done previously. Stanchina relayed that money needs to be put in the budget and that the whole area needs to address the issue, as to avoid the deer backfilling into Iron Mountain from outlying areas. Alessandrini supported Stanchina's previous statement. Raho reiterated that the deer are eating shrubs that they have not before. He asked if there are any organizations that would hunt the deer at a lower cost and possibly donate the venison to a food bank. Peterson asked when this issue was last brought up to the township. Stanchina communicated that the township may not want to hurt deer hunting in their area. Peterson noted that the city will start to look at this matter and have someone get a hold of Richard Raho.

Barb Kramer-135 Bradley Street-she noted that she lives in Raho's neighborhood and that there are many deer in that neighborhood. She expressed her concern for the deer creating a danger. Kramer supported the notion that small animals and pets could be hurt by the predators who are hunting the deer population.

Don Nelson-1511 E B Street-He noted that he and his wife live at the exit of City Park. He noted that him and his wife moved back to Iron Mountain four years ago and have had significant issues with the City Park egresses. Nelson communicated that convoys of cars are exiting the park when it is closed. He added that someone almost hit his house when they were exiting the park. Nelson reported that people are transferring illicit items from their vehicles. He communicated that loud music, Signage, speeding and litter have been some of the recurring issues. Nelson confirmed that Police Chief Flaminio supports the creation of a gate. Nelson suggested that if a gate were to be installed, the city should put an article in the paper and install an illuminated sign and gate. He added the opinion that if the exit gate was locked, the violators would be more easily caught. Nelson suggested that Blizzard, the albino deer, will be worth money when he grows up, so it may be beneficial to protect him. He acknowledged that a gate would not keep everyone out of the park at night. Peterson conveyed that she agrees with the Police Department locking the City Park gate at night and having the DPW unlock it in the morning. She noted that a gate would help to detour nightly activities, along with enforcing fines.

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Bradley Maki Presentation

Peterson read Bradley Maki's retirement resolution into the record.
Bradley Maki offered his remarks and gratitude.

Public Hearing

Vacation of Public Right of Way RE: 10' of the North side of the 1200 & 1300 blocks of West Fleshiem.

Peterson opened the public hearing

No resident input was presented pertaining to this matter.

Peterson closed the public hearing

Old Business

Approval of Right of Way Vacation RE: 10' of the North side of the 1200 & 1300 blocks of West Fleshiem.

Stanchina communicated that there was no comment for or against this vacation. He added that a 60' right of way is standard and the additional 10' will allow home owners on that street to have more options.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Jacobetti to vacate 10' of the North side of the 1200 & 1300 blocks of West Fleshiem.

Rosen	Aye
Corombos	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Alessandrini	Aye
Farragh	Abstain
Jacobetti	Aye
Villa	Aye

Motion Prevailed (Aye-6, Nay-0, Abstain-1)

New Business

Discussion of Water Distribution System

Peterson conveyed that the city resident recently received a post card informing them that Iron Mountain water supply had tested positive for Coliform. She noted that while Coliform is not dangerous it is a possible indicator of future concerns. Peterson asked if a new membrane roof was installed on the east side water tank. Stanchina conveyed the opinion that a new roof was a suggestion at the time, but it cost more than what was available. Peterson conveyed that the problem is going to be fixed as best it can. Stanchina relayed that he spoke with Jim Rice and he noted that Iron Mountain is the largest municipal water system that does not chlorinate on a regular basis. He added that the city will conclude chlorination tomorrow and it will be out of the water system in 3 days. Stanchina relayed that Coliform is not the worst water ailment the city could contend with. He relayed that the city is looking at flushing the system and looking at where the coliform could be occurring. Peterson asked about the water tanks circulation. Farragh confirmed that the water is being circulated.

No action was taken

Approval of Volunteer Fire Assistance Project Agreement

Stanchina communicated that the Fire Assistance Project would help to replace several pieces of equipment. He added that the grant is a 50/50 match grant. Stanchina noted that the city is requesting \$8,400.00 of equipment. He relayed that new pagers would allow for a faster response time and long term savings. Stanchina communicated that the city is also requesting 12 new hose links and several new radios. He added that the Fire Chief has the city's portion of the grant money in his current budget.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to approve the Volunteer Assistance Project Agreement as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Discussion of Council Committees

Stanchina communicated that he wanted to make sure the entire council is aware of where vacancies are and what committees are available. Alessandrini confirmed that the council will have to reorganize after the first of the year, according to the charter. Corombos noted that the Operations and Management committee needs to be added to the list.

Discussion of street abandonment RE: Tamarack Street between West B and West C Street.

Stanchina communicated that the section of Tamarack Street between West B & C Street is in very poor condition and will have to be largely removed for the upcoming sewer project that will be taking place on A Street. He also presented the idea that the alley to C Street could be abandoned instead of Tamarack Street. Stanchina conveyed the idea that a home owner's driveway may be utilizing the portion of Tamarack Street that would be vacated, causing a potential complication. Peterson asked if there have been any problems so far. Stanchina relayed that the planning process is just starting out. Farragh suggested that the area residents should be contacted.

No action was taken

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Reports

Financial Reports

June 30, 2009 Expenditure Report

Corombos asked when the audit will be complete. Stanchina communicated that the audit will probably be done by the first meeting in January. Peterson noted that there is nothing alarming on this report. Alessandrini confirmed that TIFA paid \$875,000 for the Khoury property and the auditors are urging the city to amend its value downward by \$347,000. Stanchina relayed that the drop in value is in response to the national market and will not result in a realized loss.

City Manager Report

Stanchina communicated that City Park's grant score on the DNR trust fun grant was not optimal; it was exceeded by \$64,000,000 in other projects. Rosen noted that the City of Iron Mountain was denied the grant due to a 20 points deficiency in its proposal scoring. He added that the DNR has agreed to help the city improve their proposal for next year. Peterson noted that the grant was rejected due to its site design not being compatible with the overall design and history of the park. She relayed that it was recommended the footprint be reduced. Rosen reiterated that the DNR will be helping the city with this grant over the coming year. Peterson voiced some doubt that the DNR Trust Fund Grant is ideal for City Park. Stanchina communicated that this grant would fit the renovating of City Park. Rosen voiced his support of Stanchina's previous comment. Peterson conveyed the idea that there are some residents who may not want the park to develop as the current plan is designed. She voiced the opinion that it may not hurt to look and see if a better match exist elsewhere. Rosen reiterated the opinion that the city will be awarded the DNR Trust Fund Grant next year. He conveyed the idea that any grant money which would benefit City Park, would be helpful. Alessandrini suggested that trials may be an issue within the current plan. Peterson noted that there were trails are in the plan. Rosen suggested that the DNR would be looking at upgrading the existing trails.

Stanchina communicated that the city will be concluding its Chlorinating and that the system has had a full hydrant flush before it has the chance to freeze. He noted that the large wood pile behind the Department of Public Works was taken care of by a logging company with a large drum chipper.

Stanchina relayed the Assessors update. He noted that 2,846 parcels are 100% complete, while 1,554 parcels are in need of data and/or pictures. Stanchina added that the uncompleted parcels are 72% complete and that City Assessor Rogina estimates a completion date of 2/15/2010. A discussion pertaining to the previous reassessment ensued.

Alessandrini noted that the meeting with Champion was canceled. He also asked how long this issue can linger before the city loses its money. Pirkola conveyed that he is going to work with Stanchina on this issue this week. Stanchina relayed that he wants a solution by the end of this week.

City Attorney Reports

Pirkola noted that the Tower lease negotiations are going well. He predicted that more detailed information will be available by the second meeting in January. Rosen asked if the tower lease agreements will be considered retroactive. Pirkola conveyed that his is working on this issue. Alessandrini confirmed that this situation is being handled on a case by case basis.

Committee Reports

Stanchina conveyed that the Tree Board is working on a tree ordinance after meeting with the Infrastructure committee.

Public Comment

Richard Rahoi-909 Houghteling Street- He suggested that the city may want to contact the DNR pertain to the deer population issue, since they control all issues attached to the deer. There was a case in Arizona or New Mexico which showed that the state was in charge of the animal population.

Council Member Privilege

Alessandrini thanked Bradley Maki for doing a good job during his career at the city.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer