

# *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, February 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Rosen

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

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Pirkola

## **Approval of Agenda**

New Business

7. Discussion of a letter of support RE: Dickinson County Hospital Hospice Program

It was moved by Villa and supported by Farragh to approve the agenda as amended.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

## **Approval of Minutes**

None

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### **Acceptance of Planning Board Resignation RE: Mary Rahoi**

Stanchina communicated that Rahoi resigned due to other time commitments.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Alessandrini to accept Mary Rahoi's resignation.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

### **Approval to remove overhead lights RE: Downtown Parking Lots**

Stanchina noted that decorative lights were installed during the recent parking lot project, getting rid of the need for the over head lights. He relayed that removing the over headlights would pay for its self in around a year and a half. Villa requested clarification on the removal costs. Stanchina explained how the costs were calculated.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to remove the overhead lights surrounding the Downtown Parking Lots.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

### **Approval of Street Light Request RE: Bay College West Campus**

Stanchina communicated that Bay College West has requested a street light at the Traders Mine Road entrance to their parking lot. He relayed that only municipalities are allowed to install overhead lights facing the road. Stanchina detailed the agreement that will be signed by both Bay College and the City.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Villa to approve the street light request for Bay College per the terms of the proposed agreement.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

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**Approval of contribution RE: Garden Club**

Stanchina communicated that the Garden Club invests a significant amount of effort into beautifying the community. Rosen voiced the opinion that consideration should be given to shops that pay city taxes, as the funding is tax payer based.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the contribution to the Garden Club for \$500.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Approval of Mid-Year Budget Amendment**

Stanchina voiced his support for Bartolameo's budget amendment. He noted that the assessing department operated for approximately \$40,000 less, since moving to a part time assessor. Stanchina relayed that there was also an unexpected sick time buy back of \$16,000 and \$238,485 to pay off several loans. He noted that the Millie Hill Trail Project showed increase in both revenue and expense, creating a budget neutral effect. Stanchina communicated that the Well House fire repairs and insurance payment are nearing completion. Peterson noted how much of the well house fire costs the insurance company covered. Rosen noted that State Revenue Sharing has decreased. Stanchina relayed that State Revenue Sharing revenue has dropped around \$130,000 this year. Stanchina noted that there was no amendment for electrical costs due to surplus funds and the full rate increase not taking effect until next budget year. Peterson asked if Stanchina has definite information on how State Revenue Sharing will be affected for the next budget year. A discussion ensued.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Villa to approve the Mid-Year Budget Amendment.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

**Discussion of establishing a policy RE: PA 198 of 1974 and PA 328 of 1998**

Rosen explained what Personal Property Tax is and how it is applied. He voiced the opinion that Personal Property Tax can be difficult for the business, but necessary for the city. Stanchina noted that PA 198 and PA 328 would allow the city to offer a tax rebate in certain situations. He detailed the process Norway, Michigan created to offer tax abatements.

Stanchina communicated that the first step would be to develop an Industrial Development District. He noted that there is no obligation to offer tax rebates just because the Industrial Development District has been set up. Stanchina requested that this concept be reviewed through the committee process.

Rosen suggested that this concept be reviewed by the operations and management committee. Peterson suggested that the concept be reviewed by the Land Use and Economic Development Committee. Corombos suggested that the Finance Committee review the concept. He noted that the schools would be affected by the tax abatements. A discussion ensued.

Stanchina noted that PA 128's main focus is to attract new business, especially since the abatements in this act can be used on real property. Peterson asked if there is a set policy that must be used when tax abatements are being offered.

This matter was referred to the Operations and Management Committee by Mayor Rosen. The next meeting of the Operations and Management Committee is set for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday February 3, 2010.

**Referred to committee**

**Discussion of a letter of support RE: Dickinson County Hospital Hospice Program**

Peterson noted that the City of Iron Mountain does not have a Hospice Program. She relayed that it is typical for a Hospital to run a Hospice Program. Peterson requested that the city voice it's support in this matter.

Rosen asked if Dickinson County or the Dickinson County Hospital has looked into this matter. Peterson conveyed that there has been little to no response if either entity is aware of this issue.

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*Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd.*

Feleppa relayed that a volunteer Hospice Program had functioned in the area until recently, since there was not a home health agency that could not support it. She noted that a Medicare and Marquette General program followed, eventually only the Marquette General program was left. Feleppa communicated that almost a year ago the Marquette General Home Health program ceased its operations. She noted that achieving an accreditation from the joint accreditation commission can be both expensive and time consuming. Feleppa voiced her support for the city offering a letter of support toward the development of a Home Hospice Program.

Peterson asked Feleppa her input on the licensing and level of interest in starting a home hospice program. Feleppa noted that she will be presenting to the Dickinson County Hospital's board in the near future. A discussion ensued.

Rosen voiced his support for offering a letter of support toward the development of a Home Hospice Program. It was noted that the letter of support should be sent to the County Board and the Dickinson County Hospital Board.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Villa to offer a letter of support toward the development of a Home Hospice Program.

**Motion prevailed unanimously**

### **Reports**

#### **Financial Reports**

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Report**

Stanchina noted that decreases in revenue and other items that were already mention in the Mid-Year Budget Amendment discussion were a factor in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Report. He relayed that the workman's compensation multiplier for the city has increased from 1.58 to 1.94, increasing the cities premiums significantly. A discussion on the workman's compensation multiplier ensued.

**No action was taken**

#### **City Manager Report**

Stanchina noted that the reflective entrance sign for City Park has been installed. Alessandrini asked if the closing time for City Park is being enforced. Stanching noted that the enforcement of the park being closed is being handled on a case by case basis. Alessandrini voiced the opinion that it would be best to give tickets with regularity, as to increase the amount of people who will observe time at which City Park is closed.

Stanchina informed the council that 46 individuals took the Civil Service Exam and that a position will most likely be opening in the spring time. He noted that the Department of Public Works has undergone some changes and time is being allowed for those changes to take effect, before a new employee is hired.

Stanchina relayed that the Police and Fire Service Report is available and could be discussed in the future. He communicated the idea that both the Iron Mountain City Council and the City of Kingsford may find this report useful. Peterson asked when the report may be discussed, it was concluded that it could be discussed at the next meeting. Rosen voiced his disapproval for the quality of the Police and Fire Service Report. He noted that the city has many options to look at and offered the idea that it would be beneficial to determine Kingsford's position on this issue at this time. Peterson voiced her disapproval for the accuracy of Harvey's data.

Stanchina communicated that the Small Urban 2010 Project had a meeting and most the roads went according to the original estimates. He noted that the only area that did not come out near the original estimate is the proposed section of Park Avenue, as it is in better than predicted shape. Stanchina relayed that the money that was slated for Park Avenue can be reallocated to another project area. A discussion ensued.

Alessandrini voiced his support for keeping the City Council informed on the different non-city boards and committees in which the City Council has active members. Corombos asked if it would be possible to have information sent to him electronically.

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### **City Attorney Reports**

Pirkola relayed that he had met with SBA and reduce their eight points of conflict down to two. He noted that they were unhappy with the termination clause, since it could be terminated at the will of the city. Pirkola conveyed that he should have lease language available for several of the tower leasers at the next council meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Peterson communicated that it may be beneficial to review how the DNR Trust Fund grants are evaluated. She relayed that this area can be explored in more detail at the next Parks and Recreation meeting. Peterson alluded to ~~the fact that land acquisition is a significant part of the grant awarding calculations~~ other grant opportunities that are available. Rosen voiced his support of this assertion.

Villa noted that the previous grant application for City Park was reviewed at the last Park and Recreation meeting. She alluded that the focus of the grant has shifted from water front to all land development.

Corombos relayed that the Operations and Management Committee met and discussed the computerization that has occurred at the city. He relayed that upkeep and compatibility was discussed. Corombos alluded to the fact that system wide compatibility must be considered.

Jacobetti communicated that he had a meeting with access management and that they felt it would be best to utilize the existing handicap ramp at the H Street entrance to the Mid-Town Mall. He recommended that City Manager Stanchina look into the costs of pavement markings, installing a pedestrian operated sign and installing a sidewalk landing on one end of the cross walk. Jacobetti voiced his support for this project. A discussion ensued.

Alessandrini noted that the Infrastructure Committee met on the creation of Request for Proposals. Stanchina detailed what information had been brought to light on this issue so far.

Peterson noted how well the Main Street Program has been utilizing young talent and the high quality of their news letter.

### **Public Comment**

*Linnea Marchetti - 614 W Ludington Sreet.*

She noted that the Iron Mountain Main Street has received national accreditation. She read a portion of the accreditation into the record. Linnea thanked everyone who helped make the Main Street Program a success.

*Barb Kramer – 134 Bradley Street*

She identified herself as the president of the Garden Club and thanked the City Council for their support. Kramer detailed the level of follow up the City could expect from the Garden Club, so the council can see where their money has been spent.

*Bob Moraska – W. D Street*

He relayed that it would not make sense to replant trees that were not taken care of in the past, if there is not a plan to maintain them after the replacements are planted. Moraska voiced the opinion that it may not be beneficial to keep the cross country trails illuminated in the evening.

*Sally Jacobs - 1609 Park View Dr.*

She communicated that the lights at City Park go on around 6:00 pm and shut off at 10:00 pm. Jacobs stated she observed regular usage and believes that the trial usage justifies the expense of keeping it illuminated in the evening.

### **Council Member Privilege**

Farragh voiced the opinion that there are other parks in town, other than City Park, that the Parks and Recreation committee should also be looking at. He suggested that it may be beneficial to ask the school to share the cost of resurfacing the East Side Tennis Courts.

Peterson noted her support for Farragh's previous opinion and discussed a couple of viable options that could allow the city to rejuvenate these areas.

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**Adjournment**

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

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 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