

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, April 5, 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 & Attorney Robert Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

Alessandrini requested that "Discussion of water issues" be item number ten under New Business.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to approve the agenda with the above addition.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 15, 2010

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Peterson to approve the minutes as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 29, 2010

It was moved by Jacobetti and supported by Villa to approve the minutes as submitted.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

John Roberts - 500 East D Street

He noted that several automobiles were traveling too fast in City Park. Roberts relayed that he had contacted the Iron Mountain Police Department pertaining to this issue and that they acted expeditiously. He requested that some speed bumps be installed in area where children are playing. Farragh confirmed that speed bumps have not been installed in City Park in the past. Jacobetti confirmed that a speed limit sign is posted and that it is enforceable. Jacobetti voiced his support for installing speed bumps in City Park.

Mike Nicometto - 427 South Stephenson Ave.

Nicometto introduced himself as a representative of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and a local property owner that is located in the DDA District. He noted that a meeting was facilitated with representatives from the Midtown Mall, City of Iron Mountain and the DDA. Nicometto also relayed that Ms. Karen Mooney had the unanimous support of the current DDA Board Members to sit on the DDA Board. He proceeded to detail the areas within next year's budget and the proposed Five Year Forecast that the Midtown Mall will receive a benefit for their contribution. Nicometto conveyed the opinion that the Midtown Mall has chosen not to communicate with the DDA on this issue, at this time.

Linnea Marchetti - 614 West Ludington Street

She introduced herself as the current DDA Chairperson. Marchetti communicated the opinion that if Main Street is strengthened, then the whole district benefits. She relayed that the DDA would welcome a representative of the Midtown Mall to sit on the DDA.

Lucy Shampo- 1001 South Kimberly

She communicated that a Recycling Day will be taking place on April 24 from 9 to 12 pm. Shampo noted that the traditional items will be accepted for free. She added that refrigerators, air conditioners and Dehumidifiers will be accepted for a nominal fee. Shampo relayed that the fee charged at the Recycling Day is significantly less than the typical fee. She voiced the opinion that Dickinson County should engage in a TV recycling program, as it could save money and the environment. Shampo reported on the previous successes of Recycling Day.

Jason Asselin - 1415 South Stephenson Ave.

CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN*COMMON COUNCIL*APRIL 5, 2010

He commended the city for their announcement of the water boil. Asselin voiced his concern that certain businesses did not adhere to the water boil.

Special Presentation

Rosen read the proposed Resolution of Acclaim for Mr. Tomassoni out loud. Mike Ring, a member of the Iron Mountain Bowling Team, presented a speech relaying the team's sentiments towards Coach Tomassoni. Mr. Tomassoni accepted his Resolution of Acclaim.

Public Hearing

Sign Ordinance Amendment

Rosen opened the Public Hearing

Stanchina conveyed that the proposed amendments to the Sign Ordinance would allow for two signs to be placed on a building and to allow the face of a roof sign to be changed. He clarified that the proposed amendment would not allow for the repair of a roof sign's structure.

Public Comment

Mike Nicometto – 427 South Stephenson Ave.

He commended this alteration to the current Sign Ordinance. Nicometto voiced his support for the way in which the current administration is handling upcoming situations.

Rosen Closed the Public Hearing

Chapin Alley Vacation

Rosen opened the Public Hearing

Stanchina conveyed that it was requested to vacate a section of alley on the 600 Block of Chapin Street. He relayed that there was only one inquiry and it was resolved.

Public Comment

Barb Kramer – 135 Bradley Street

She asked if a dilapidated building that is located in the right-of-way would have to be altered as part of the vacation. Stanchina noted her comment and relayed that he will notify Code Enforcement.

Rosen Closed the Public Hearing

Old Business

Approval of Sign Ordinance Amendments

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Corombos to approve the proposed amendments to the Sign Ordinance.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Chapin Alley Vacation

~~It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Villa to approve the proposed amendments to the Sign Ordinance.~~

To approve the vacating of a platted alley described as South of Lot 36 and North of lots 38 & 37 of Assessors Plat of Chapin Mining Company. Approximately 97 ft. long by 25 ft. wide.

Jacobetti asked how the issues of an encroaching building within the city's current right of way will be resolved. A discussion ensued.

Alessandrini withdrew his previous motion.

It was moved by Jacobetti and supported by Farragh to table this issue till the next Regular Council Meeting.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Bid Award Re: J Street Pump Station

Stanchina communicated that the lowest bid, Champion Charter, did not meet the required specifications. He relayed that L.W. Allen was the lowest responsible bidder at \$8,967.00.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to approve the J Street Pump Station contract to L.W. Allen for \$8,967.00.

CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN*COMMON COUNCIL*APRIL 5, 2010

New Business

Midtown Mall Downtown Development Authority Discussion

Stanchina relayed that the Midtown Mall Management requested that this item be place on the council agenda. Dennis Chellew, Midtown Mall Manager, communicated the opinion that their contributions over the last several years have not been spent appropriately. Rosen asked why Chellew felt the finances have not been spent appropriately. Karen Mooney, Midtown Mall Promotions Co-coordinator, relayed the opinion that the Midtown Mall has paid in excess of \$150,000.00 over the last 25 years to the DDA and has received approximately \$500.00 in benefit. Peterson questioned the method by which Mooney calculated her financial statistics. Rosen voiced the opinion that the spirit of the letter communicates a lack of Return on Invest for businesses that are located outside of the immediate downtown area. He conveyed the idea that the DDA's projected Five Year Forecast would allow for a possible easing of the DDA assessment. Rosen relayed his support for the efforts and abilities of the current Main Street Manager to benefit the whole city. He communicated the opinion that working together towards the benefit of the City of Iron Mountain is optimal. Alessandrini suggested that Mooney sit on the DDA for the next year, till the millage expires. Mooney conveyed the idea that past financial discrepancies and personality conflicts have been a long standing issue between the Midtown Mall and the DDA. She noted that she was not made aware of the projected budgetary considerations toward the Midtown Mall that Nicometto spoke of at the DDA meeting she previously attended. Peterson communicated the opinion that the DDA has made efforts to reach out to the Midtown Mall. A discussion of a poem, which the Midtown Mall referenced in their letter, ensued. Corombos asked detailed questions pertaining to the proposed DDA budget. Rosen suggested that a joint meeting take place between the City Council, DDA and The Midtown Mall. A meeting was set for April 12, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.

No Action Taken

Resolution of Support Re: Marinette Marine LCS Program

Rosen read the proposed Resolution of Support into the record. Stanchina detailed several of the businesses that would benefit if Marinette Marine was awarded a large Navy contract.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to support the Marinette Marine LCS Program.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Liquor License Transfer Re: FMP Properties, LLC

Stanchina relayed that FMP Properties is requesting the completion of a Liquor License transfer from TMBS Properties, formerly know as the Firehouse Pub. He noted that the buyer has paid all outstanding taxes and water bills.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Jacobetti to approve the Liquor License Transfer from TMBS Properties to FMP Properties, LLC.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Introduction and Set Public Hearing Date Re: Adoption of International Fire Code

Stanchina relayed that the city is currently using the BOCA Fire Code and the International Fire Code is the new standard. He conveyed that utilizing the International Fire Code would assist in other areas of code enforcement. Stanchina communicated that the Fire Chief would prefer to approve the International Fire Code without permitting. Alessandrini asked if private homes would be required to use sprinkler systems. Kevin Pirlot, Iron Mountain Firemen, communicated that all new construction must follow the building code, not the fire code. A discussion ensued.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Jacobetti to set a Public Hearing date of April 19, 2010 at 6:30 for the adoption of the International Fire Code.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Contribution Re: IM-K Community Schools

Stanchina noted that the city has been contributing to the summer program for several years. He communicated the opinion that this program can do more collectively than one unit of government could do on their own and that the funds were budgeted. Rosen voiced his support of the program. Peterson asked how long the city has been contributing \$3,000.00. Stanchina relayed that IM-K Community Schools requested this amount.

It was moved by Jacobetti and supported by Villa to approve a contribution of \$3,000.00 to the IM-K Community Schools.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of DDA Reappointment Re: Mrs. Linnea Marchetti

Stanchina relayed his recommendation that Mrs. Marchetti be reappointed to the DDA. Corombos clarified that the DDA openings have been advertised. Rosen voiced his appreciating for Mrs. Marchetti and Mrs. Brew's efforts. Jacobetti relayed that the Midtown Mall would be a welcome addition to the DDA.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Alessandrini to reappoint Mrs. Linnea Marchetti to the DDA

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN*COMMON COUNCIL*APRIL 5, 2010

Approval of Additional Utility Work Re: East A Street

Stanchina communicated the idea that certain locations could benefit from updates that were not previously scheduled, as the road will already be disturbed. He proceeded to detail several locations that are being proposed for additional replacement. Stanchina noted that the additional funds would come from the Water Fund at \$47,745.00, Major Streets at \$32,300 and the Sewer Fund at \$57,878.25. He conveyed that the water lines, sewer lines and road surface of East A Street would then be replaced from Park Avenue to Washington Street. Stanchina communicated that the contractor's unit price would be available for the additional work that is being proposed.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to approve the additional utility work for East A Street.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of no charge City Park Pavilion rental Re: Camp 911

Stanchina relayed Camp 911's request for free City Park Pavilion rental on June 8 and June 9. He relayed their appreciation for the city's prior support.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Jacobetti to approve the free use of the City Park Pavilion on June 8, 2010 and June 9, 2010.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval to purchase Re: Radio Water Meter Caps

Stanchina detailed how water meters are currently read and how radio water meter caps could aid the water department. He conveyed that these purchases would be a first step in purchasing radio meters for all the city's water customers. Stanchina detailed how the radio caps could be universal in the future.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Farragh to approve the purchase of Radio Water Meter Caps.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Discussion of water issues

Rosen suggested that the council set parameters and then refer the issue to the Infrastructure Committee. He supported Stanchina's idea of installing monitoring devices on the doors entering the water tanks. Stanchina detailed the events that took place leading up to the conclusion of the Boil Water Advisory. He stressed that these events took place as a precaution. Stanchina detailed several measures that are being considered in order to avoid this situation in the future. Alessandrini communicated the idea that the Boil Water Advisory was not adequately presented to the citizens. A discussion ensued.

No Action Taken

Reports

Financial Reports

Stanchina noted that the Health Care Committee will be meeting with the city's Blue Cross Blue Shield representative on April 6, 2010 to discuss premium increases.

City Manager Reports

Stanchina noted that budget meetings are scheduled to begin this week.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Alessandrini reported that the Code Commission has issued more permits this year than it had last year at this time.

Public Comment

Karen Mooney – 8:15 Blain Street

She suggested that city could utilize reader boards. Mooney conveyed the idea that they could distribute information very quickly to many people. Rosen relayed that the length of the required message may be problematic.

Barb Kramer – 135 Bradley Street

She noted that any resident can sign up for e-mail alerts from the city and that she did receive an e-mail alert about the Boil Water Advisory. She also conveyed that her pastor announced the Boil Water Advisory. She suggested that the city might consider applying for a Homeland Security Grant.

Bob Moraska – 600 W. D Street

CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN*COMMON COUNCIL*APRIL 5, 2010

He communicated his disapproval for the way in which a Council Person addressed an invited guest that was placed on the agenda.

Jason Asselin – 1415 S. Stephenson Avenue

He suggested that restaurants and gas stations could be a good place to start a notification. Asselin stressed the importance of improving the notification process.

Rob Langsford – 619 Wells Street

He complimented the city on the actions that were taken during the Boil Water Advisory. Langsford suggested that a recap meeting take place to identify where the process lapsed. He stressed the importance of working as a community.

Council Member Privilege

Farragh commended Stanchina and the employees on how they handled the weekend's events.

Peterson echoed Farragh's Sentiments.

Jacobetti congratulated Stanchina on his performance and voiced his support for Langsford's sentiments. He communicated the idea that important ideas should not be allowed to slide by. Stanchina noted that the Land Bank Concept is stalled until Dickinson County acts.

Rosen suggested that Corombos does a good job of maintaining a list of pending matters.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer