

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 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Rosen

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Chief Financial Officer Bartolameolli, City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Gerald Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Villa to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of April 4, 2011

Villa noted that the City should be informed as to when a military flyover will take place.

It was moved by Villa and supported by Alessandrini to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

Bill Gammey - 709 6th Street

He suggested that the City's tornado waning system be operated more often as to make the public better prepared in the event of an emergency. Gammey stated that the last time the siren was needed was 1993.

Old Business

None

New Business

National Register of Historic Places Update

Kelly Larson introduced herself as the Michigan Main Street Architect for the State Historic Preservation Office. She proceeded to introduce Bryan Lijewski, an architect with the State Historic Preservation Office's Historic Tax Credit Program, Bob Christeansen, a coordinator with the National Register of Historic Places, and Nan Taylor, a field specialist with the Historic Preservation Network. Larson stated that Iron Mountain in the first community to be selected for the Historic Preservation Assessment program. She conveyed that the goal of this pilot program is to address challenges and goals within the community, while developing methods to promote the City's historic value. Larson clarified that the DDA boundaries will not dictate the boundaries for the historic district.

No Action Taken

Dickinson County Bike Path Committee Update

Bob Werner thanked the City for its efforts towards the development of a bike path to City Park. He detailed the future plans for bike path development that would create a bike route from Iron Mountain to Norway. Werner conveyed that biking increases tourism, assist in employee recruitment and increases property values in the area it is developed. He confirmed that future road construction should include a wider shoulder.

No Action Taken

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Discussion of DDA Millage, Length of Millage and Boundaries

Stanchina stated that the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is requesting that the current Downtown Development District (DDD) be approved for a 1.5 mill levy for the next two years. He clarified the process that the City Council would have to undertake to either approve the district as is or amend it. Peterson stated that the goal of the proposed levy would be to create additional time for the DDA to prove its benefit to the Midtown Mall, given the DDA's current leadership. Alessandrini communicated the idea that the Midtown Mall will be indirectly contributing to the City through their promotions. Pirkola noted that the purpose of a DDA is to help develop an area of depreciating property values, not whether or not an individual business will benefit from being in the DDA. Peterson expressed the idea that granting a businesses request to not be in the DDA could create a negative precedent. Alessandrini and Rosen supported the idea that the Midtown Mall should not be included within the DDD given the manner in which they maintain their property. Nicometto, DDA treasurer, clarified that if the Midtown Mall is not included in the DDA, the DDA assessment on the personal property owned by the merchants in the mall will not be made available to the owners of the Midtown Mall for improvements, lowering the total amount of funds that are available to improve the mall property. Karen Mooney, Midtown Mall Promotions Director, communicated the idea that the merchants in the Midtown Mall find it very important to support our local community. Rosen reiterated his support for the removal of the Midtown Mall from the DDD based on their property maintenance. Peterson objected to removing the Midtown Mall based on their property maintenance or threats of legal action. Jacobetti voiced his objection to the removal of the Midtown Mall due to the reasons they were originally included.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Jacobetti to approve the DDA millage at 1.5 mills and retain the current Downtown Development District

Motion Failed (Aye - Peterson & Jacobetti, Nay - Alessandrini, Rosen, Corombos, Villa & Farragh)

Peterson reiterated her objection to the removal of the Midtown Mall. Rosen voiced his support for the removal of the Midtown Mall from the DDD and communicated the idea that the Midtown Mall's property maintenance and return on their DDA assessment must be factored in to their removal from the DDD.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to set a public hearing for May 16, 2011 to remove the legal description that includes the Midtown Mall from the Downtown Development District due to the fact that the Midtown Mall is not subject to declining property values.

Motion Prevailed (Aye - Alessandrini, Rosen, Corombos, Villa & Farragh, Nay - Peterson & Jacobetti)

Approval of Contribution Re: IM-K Community Schools

Stanchina noted that Breitung Township and Kingsford are being asked to pay \$2,000 each and Iron Mountain is being asked to pay \$3,000 toward a summer recreation program. He conveyed that the reason is based on participation in the program. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Villa to approve a \$3,000 donation to the IM-K Community Schools for a summer recreation program.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Peterson exited at 8:14 PM

Peterson entered at 8:16 PM

City Owned Parking Lot Closure Re: Out to Lunch

Stanchina stated that Jonathan Ringel, Main Street Manager, has requested that the City owned parking lot located in front of the performing arts stage be closed every Thursday between 7 AM and 2PM from June 9, 2011 to August 18, 2011.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the proposed parking lot closure.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Donation Re: July 4th Fireworks Show

Stanchina requested that \$500 be donated to the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 50 for the July 4th fireworks show. He clarified that it is legally permissible to donate funds for this purpose.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve a \$500 donation to the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 50 for the July 4th fireworks show.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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

Stanchina recommended the approval of a no charge City Park Pavilion request for the Community Schools on June 14 & 15. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Villa to approve a no charge City Park Pavilion rental for the Camp 911 program on June 14 & 15.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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Reports

Financial Reports

Corombos recommended that the Claims and Payroll be paid. Peterson requested that a break down of Family Sick Leave be provided with the overtime report.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Rosen to pay the Claims in the amount of \$613,208.89 and the Payroll in the amount of \$264,842.47.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

City Manager Reports

Stanchina informed the City Council that it is optional for the City to comment on Dickinson County's application for a grant to purchase a squad car.

Stanchina conveyed that the City if working with the lower bidder for the Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement project to reduce the cost of the project, as to remain within budget.

Stanchina stated that Dr. Fornetti will pay the cost of the City's initial baseline environmental assessment, as the City will be trading Dr. Fornetti clean property for contaminated property.

Stanchina said that he will be checking into whether or not Breitung Township can rezone scenic preservation.

Pirkola clarified that Mr. LaFave will have to work with the State of Michigan to develop a staged approach to developing his subdivision. He expressed the idea that it would be beneficial to update the developer's agreement.

Stanchina stated that the new City phone system was set to be installed, until it became a necessity to install a portion of the wires underground. He noted that permits are being obtained for the instillation of the City fiber line.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

None

Public Comment

None

Council Member Privilege

Peterson said that Dr. Nicolas, Iron Mountain Animal Hospital, would be willing to consider helping the City with the deer that reside within the deer pen at City Park.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.


Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer