

## *City of Iron Mountain*

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Regular Meeting of the City Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via electronic meeting.

Presiding: Mayor Alessandrini

Present: Council Members Blomquist, Clawson, Zemar, Revord & Maule

Absent: Council Member Schinderle

Also Present: City Manager Stanchina & City Attorney Pirkola

### **Approval of Agenda**

Zemar requested that "Marijuana Ordinance in Iron Mountain Discussion" be added as item number four under New Business.

It was moved by Zemar and supported by Maule to approve the agenda, as amended.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

### **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Maule and supported by Zemar to approve the minutes of September 21, 2020, as presented.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Old Business**

#### **Vicious Dog Ordinance Update**

Stanchina noted that taking vicious dogs to the animal shelter is no longer an option and that increased penalties, combined with a self-quarantine, is the best option. Pirkola supported the option of increasing penalties in an effort to reduce dog attacks. Mattson and Pirkola communicated that the proposed option would allow better enforcement. Mattson stated that kenneling is not an option due to shot requirements and temperament issues. It was moved by Revord and supported by Alessandrini to direct the City Attorney to draft ordinance amendments to the City's Vicious Dog Ordinance.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

### **New Business**

#### **Approval of Adjustment to the Administrative Salary Step Schedule**

Alessandrini imparted his support of the City Manager's pay increase strategy. Stanchina asserted the City is doing well fiscally this year and that next year's situation is unknown.

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Clawson to approve the proposed adjustments to the administrative salary step schedule, retroactive to July 1, 2020, with the Administrative Assistant PD's increase being retroactive to the date they received full-time status.

Roll-call vote was taken:

Aye- Blomquist, Clawson, Zemar, Alessandrini, Revord & Maule

Nay-None

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

#### **Approval of Payment Application #2 Hebert Construction Re: West C St. Project**

Stanchina reported that the West C Street Project has went well. He confirmed that the loss of water notification process should be improved. Clawson thanked Department of Public Works Supervisor, Scott Thomas, for his work on the B Street water main project.

## **CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN\*CITY COUNCIL\*OCTOBER 5, 2020**

It was moved by Clawson and supported by Maule to approve payment number two to Hebert Construction in the amount of \$303,716.55 for the West C Street Project.

Roll-call vote was taken:

Aye-Maule, Blomquist, Clawson, Zemar, Alessandrini & Revord

Nay-None

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

### **Resolution Opposing Reappointment to the Tax Tribunal Re: Victoria Enyart**

Stanchina recapped the City's losses due to tax tribunal practices. Revord indicated this issue was already raised. Maule suggested that the language stating "as proposed by Governor Gretchen Whiter" be removed. It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Blomquist to approve the resolution "Reject Appointment of Victoria Enyart", as presented.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

### **Marijuana Ordinance in Iron Mountain Discussion**

Zemar expressed an interest in expanding all types of licensing opportunities for all the applicants that applied in the last round. Revord and Alessandrini asserted that this issue should be discussed by the Marihuana Ordinance Committee prior to being raised at the City Council level. Stanchina clarified that there were different applicants for the medical and recreational marijuana licenses. He stated that it is not legally defensible to make exceptions for local applicants. Pirkola raised the concern that expanding licensing at this time could expose the City to litigation and decreased investment by current licensees. Zemar conveyed that risk is inherent in this process.

It was moved by Revord and supported by Alessandrini to table this matter and refer it to the Marihuana Ordinance Committee for review.

Roll-call vote was taken:

Aye-Revord, Maule, Clawson, Zemar & Alessandrini

Nay-None

Abstain- Blomquist

**Motion Prevailed** (Aye-5, Nay-0, Abstain-1)

Stanchina outlined the proper process for amending an ordinance. Zemar imparted the desire to allow unlimited licenses. Alessandrini reiterated the need to follow the proper process and not rush the process. Stanchina relayed that the number of licenses can be amended within the proper process. Pirkola imparted that reopening licensing process would have to include a new application process. Blomquist detailed the reasons to limit licensing, reiterated that reopening the process would require the taking of new applications and that the level of investment on current projects will decline. Maule stressed the opinion that the amendment to allow additional licenses would be minor. Pirkola and Stanchina highlighted the proper process for the goal of expanding licensing. Zemar relayed his support for an open-market system. Alessandrini reminded everyone of the investment being made by the current licensees and that the vote to extend their completion deadlines was unanimous. Clawson and Maule voiced their support for expanding opportunities for small businesses. Stanchina explained that if the current license holders do not complete what they promised by April 1, 2021, their licenses will go to the next applicant in line. Blomquist communicated that a lot of money has already been invested by the current license holders and that additional funds will be reduced if more licenses are offered. Pirkola, Revord, Alessandrini & Pirkola stated that working through the committee process will produce a more productive discussion. Pirkola outlined the possible issues related to expanding the number of licenses. Zemar imparted that the free-market system would determine which applicants will make it. Blomquist suggested that a special use process be utilized if licenses were to be unlimited. Maule relayed that it would be best keep things local. Maule expressed the concern that this subject would be killed in committee.

It was moved by Revord and supported by Alessandrini to table this issue.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

It was moved by Zemar and supported by Clawson to refer this matter to the Marijuana Ordinance Committee.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

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**Reports**

**Financial Reports**

None

**City Manager Reports**

*Hydrant Flushing*

Stanchina and Thomas reviewed the hydrant flushing schedule to begin October 12, 2020.

*Paving*

Stanchina reported that paving would begin October 19, 2020. He noted that the roadway issue within the Small Urban Paving areas on Vulcan Street are being corrected.

*Staffing/Retirements*

Stanchina updated the Council on the status of the City Hall staff adjustments.

*Absentee Ballots*

Stanchina outlined election grants the City received and the level of Absentee ballots that have been requested.

*COVID-19 Restrictions*

Stanchina noted the new Health Department orders.

Maule asked for clarification on Trick-or-Treat hours.

**Public Comment**

None

**Council Member Privilege**

Clawson complimented Hebert Construction for their work on the West C Street Project.

**Closed Session Re: Pending Litigation**

It was moved by Maule and supported by Blomquist to move into Closed Session at 7:40 P.M.

Roll-call vote was taken:

Aye: Alessandrini, Revord, Maule, Blomquist, Clawson & Zemar

Nay: None

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

Closed session ended at 7:49 P.M.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Revord and supported by Clawson to adjourn.

**Motion Prevailed Unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

  
Isaac Micheau  
Clerk-Treasurer