

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, July 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Rosen
Present: Council Members Peterson, Alessandrini, Corombos, Villa, Jacobetti & Farragh
Absent: None
Also Present: City Manager Stanchina, CFO Bartolameolli & City Attorney Pirkola

Approval of Agenda

Rosen requested that item number 5, Special Presentation, be moved to item number 8. He also requested that "East "A" Street Project Expenses" be added as item number 3 under new business.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Alessandrini to approve the agenda with the proposed amendments.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 6, 2010

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

None

Public Hearing

Vacant Lots East of Ranger Field

Rosen Opened the Public Hearing

Stanchina noted that the 3 lots adjoining Ranger Field have been offered to the city for \$13,400. He communicated that the City Assessor felt the price was reasonable. Stanchina recommended the purchase of this property.

Public Comment

None

Council Comment

Peterson clarified that the City's Budget will not have to be amended to purchase the property. Stanchina noted that a 5/7th vote is required to purchase the property.

Rosen Closed the Public Hearing

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Villa to approve the purchase of Lots 66, 67 and 68 of Lumberman's Mining Company Second Addition for the price of \$13,400.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Old Business

Bid Opening Re: City Park Tennis Courts

Stanchina relayed that the proposed repairs to the Tennis Courts would extend their useful life.

Fahrner Sealers

\$13,458.00

Referred to the Infrastructure Committee

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East "A" Street Project Expenses

Stanchina noted the plan to slip line the sewer was changed to replacement and would result in the removal of a significant amount of curb, therefore it was advantageous to replace all the curbing along the 600 Block. He relayed that the proposed Change Order would be in the amount of \$5,964. Alessandrini voiced the opinion that the contractor should not have removed the curb without prior permission. Jacobetti stressed the importance of planning the replacement of curb, sidewalk and roads.

It was moved by Jacobetti and supported by Farragh to approve the increase in project costs of \$5,964.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

New Business

Approval of FY2010 Membership Dues Re: CUPPAD

Stanchina conveyed that CUPPAD is involved in Regional Economic Development. He relayed that the dues are \$1,631. Stanchina explained why CUPPAD is helpful to the city. He recommended approving CUPPAD Dues in the amount of \$1,631. Peterson communicated the idea that the city could better utilize CUPPAD's services.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Corombos to approve the annual CUPPAD dues in the amount of \$1,631.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval to Submit a Letter of Support Re: CUPPAD Sustainable Communities Grant

Stanchina detailed the goals of the Sustainable Communities Grant. He expressed the opinion that the grant would be focused on overall Economic Development. Stanchina relayed that CUPPAD is requesting a Letter of Support as the grant is competitive and regionally focused.

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Alessandrini to submit a Letter of Support for the Sustainable Communities Grant.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Discussion of Street Closure Policy

Farragh recommended that this topic be referred to the Infrastructure Committee, with input being gathered from the City's Department Heads. Peterson expressed the opinion that Street Closures should be reserved for Community Events. Corombos communicated the idea that each request should be considered individually.

Referred to the Infrastructure Committee

Special Presentation Re: Representative from the United States Postal Service Concerning the Iron Mountain Post Office Closure.

Marla J. Larson

She relayed that Iron Mountain's Main Post Office is not closing, just relocating. Larson communicated the idea that the City would be involved with the locating of a new facility. She noted that the Postal System is experiencing fiscal difficulty and technical advances, thus altering their real estate needs. Larson expressed the idea that the current Iron Mountain Main Post Office is too large for its current uses. She explained the relocation process. Larson noted that the current Postal Facility in Iron Mountain would return to the Tax Rolls if sold, as it would no longer be a Federal Facility.

Rosen asked if the Postal System has considered leasing the unused space in the Iron Mountain Post Office. Larson noted that security concerns often make leasing to a tenant challenging, thus the reason for renting from the buildings new owner. Rosen request clarification as either of the previous scenarios would involve shared space. Larson conveyed that the vacancy rate, management efforts and remodeling investment would make a leasing out situation challenging.

Larson conveyed that the murals in the current Post Office Lobby would be moved to the new Post Office, loaned to the new buyer or moved to a new location for community viewing.

Peterson asked what processes occur at the Iron Mountain Post Office. Larson noted that it houses a Retail Center and Post Office Boxes. Peterson inquired as to who is assuring that the Iron Mountain Post Office will not be closed. Larson conveyed that the Area Vice President's Office has decided to retain a Post Office in Iron Mountain.

Rosen clarified that Post Office Box numbers will not change, if a new Post Office location is chosen.

Alessandrini clarified what Larson has spoken about pertaining to the Post Office and its State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Status. Larson explained the SHPO process. Alessandrini asked if there is enough room in the Kingsford Facility without adding on. Larson noted that the Kingsford Facility meets the required standards. She agreed to provide operational data pertaining to worker accommodations to Alessandrini. Larson expressed the importance of Right Sizing the Postal Operation.

Corombos confirmed that the Building Appraisal will be based on its Market Value. Larson noted that utilizing a shared facility has not occurred at this time. Corombos confirmed that a new Post Office would be comprised of an existing building that is leased on a five year lease, with a five year renewal. Larson relayed that the Post Office does not want to leave an empty building.

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Rosen requested clarification as to how it is cheaper to lease than maintain a building that is already paid off. Larson explained her position on this issue, primarily voicing deferred maintenance concerns. She reiterated her position that it would be optimal to relocate the Post Office to a smaller facility.

Peterson initiated a conversation on the Historic Preservation of the Post Office Building. Larson conveyed that she would keep the city informed of developments within this area of concern. Larson detailed the process that the Post Office will follow throughout the entire process and the efforts they will take to ensure transparency.

John Marcott – Represents the Michigan Postal Workers Union (including the APWU 498-499 Local)

Marcott thanked Larson for presenting at the meeting. He noted that data has not been provided to support the assertion that it would be optimal to relocate the Post Office from its current facility to a smaller leased facility. Marcott requested that Larson speak on the probability of the current Post Office being purchased and redeveloped by another entity.

Larson stated that she is only presenting in an attempt to inform, not to ask for permission to sell the current Post Office. She communicated the opinion that she is not intending to provide certain information, as her job does not require it. Larson Reiterated that the Post Office is not attempting to close the Iron Mountain Post Office, just relocate.

Marcott noted that the Post Office operates on its own revenue; however, it operates with a tax exempt status. He stressed the value of the Post Office's Iconic Buildings. Marcott explained several issues relating to the financial operating of the Postal Service. Corombos expressed the opinion that it is not up to the city to decide whether or not the Post Office needs to relocate to a smaller facility.

Michelle Yuhasey - APWU 498-499 local Representative

She noted that the Post Office was created to keep people connected and not to focus on making a profit. Yuhasey communicated the opinion that the Post Office intended to sell the Iron Mountain Facility previous to the carriers being relocated to the Kingsford facility. She expressed the opinion that safety is being compromised at the Kingsford Facility, due to the carrier relocation. Yuhasey relayed the opinion that the current Post Master is prone to closing the facilities he is stationed at. Yuhasey noted that the City Attorney can file an injunction to prohibit the sale of the Post Office. It was concluded that a letter pertaining to the historical significance of the Post Office would be sent to both elected officials and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Philip Solum – Iron Mountain Postal Employee

He noted that the Iron Mountain Post Office has been an asset to the Downtown and local businesses. Solum suggested that Larson's estimate of how much space is used within the Iron Mountain Post Office is not accurate. He communicated the opinion that a loss of status could result from the Post Office being relocated or down graded.

Kevin Pirlot – 603 W. Fleshier

He communicated the opinion that the Post Office may have purposely transferred personnel in order to make the Iron Mountain Post Office expendable. Pirlot suggested that the current Post Office is not likely to sell. He conveyed the notation that a future application for the building may not be desirable for the Downtown.

Rosen supported Alessandrini's opinion that a stronger letter should be sent to each of Michigan's Legislators.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Alessandrini to draft a letter to the State Historical Preservation Office concerning the relocation of the Iron Mountain Post Office and the requirements for its preservation.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

It was moved by Alessandrini and supported by Farragh to draft a letter to the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners as well as Michigan's State and Federal Elected Representatives concerning the relocation of the Iron Mountain Post Office.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

The Council took a recess

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**Reports
Financial Reports**

Corombos noted that the Finance Committee had met and their questions had been answered in a satisfactory manor. Stanchina noted that a majority of the Police Department Overtime is due to an Extended Medical Leave. Alessandrini relayed that he must abstain due to Line Item 57 under the June Claims.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Jacobetti to approve the Claims in the amount of \$920,790.25 and the Payroll in the amount of \$310,101.48.

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

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

City Manager Reports

Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Stanchina noted that the committee needs to discuss the Water Tank Roofing Project.

Lift Station on West "B" Street

Stanchina relayed that the project is held up due to Telemetry Controls. He noted that the project will be completed soon.

East "A" Street

Stanchina conveyed that certain parts of the project have been paved and that the Parking Lot issues are being resolved. Stanchina relayed that certain parts of the project have completed curb and utilities.

Police Secretary

Stanchina noted that the Police Department is training a new secretary.

Single Lot Assessment

Stanchina detailed the Special Assessment Process.

Rental Housing Inspections

Stanchina noted that the Fire Department is working on Rental Housing Inspections.

City Attorney Reports

Pirkola relayed that the Champion Easement is being worked on.

Alessandrini expressed the opinion that North Side Cable would feel better about a fixed Rate rather than a Per Customer Rate for their Tower Lease. He conveyed that the current escalator clause is also a sticking point for North Side Cable.

Committee Reports

Stanchina suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee should meet.

Public Comment

John Marcott – Represents the Michigan Postal Workers Union (including the APWU 498-499 Local)

He thanked the City Council for their time and attention on the Post Office Discussion.

Council Member Privilege

Stanchina noted that the Paving Bid has been sent out and the bids will be opened at the next Council Meeting. Peterson and Rosen thanked everyone for their input on the Post Office Discussion.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.


Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer