

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 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Presiding: Mayor Rosen

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

Absent: Council Member Alessandrini

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

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Jacobetti to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Special Meeting of January 31, 2011

Peterson requested that the following items be noted:

The fact that Mr. Simone stated that the snow on his sidewalk is not being removed by the City

That the business Member Rosen was speaking of not being supported by the DDA was his

That Karen Mooney said the Midtown Mall may take legal action against the City

No Action Taken

Regular Meeting of February 7, 2011

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Farragh to approve the Minutes of February, 2011, as presented.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Public Comment

Virginia Feleppa - 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd.

She voiced her support for the development of the proposed Lake Antoine Bike Path for both health and economic reasons.

Barb Kramer - 135 Bradley St.

She noted that a biking event in Marquette County is estimated to bring in between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000 from tourism.

Old Business

Discussion of Lake Antoine Bike Path Agreement

Pirkola stated that Dickinson County paid the City's portion of the initial design and engineering costs, totaling \$26,000. He said that the intent was for the County to get paid back when funds had been secured, leaving the City with only in-kind contributions. Pirkola conveyed that the initial plan was designed in a manner as to involve property that was not owned by the City of Iron Mountain, requiring that easements be acquired. He relayed that the bike path was then shifted from a stand alone bike path to a widened shoulder following the road. Pirkola stated that the City encountered additional costs to receive additional easements along the roadway. He informed the City Council that some of the easements expired as the project was not completed within three years. Pirkola said that the City Council and TIFA agreed to pay cash as the City could not do as much in-kind work under the new plan. He informed the City Council that a previous council had paid the \$26,000 in design costs and agreed to pay an additional \$26,000, with credit received for the costs of obtaining the necessary easements.

Stanchina stated that the City's share is now approximately \$30,000 due to increased costs over time. He added that the value of the easements that the City had obtained for the project was approximately \$13,000, leaving the City to pay an additional \$17,000 in cash. Stanchina clarified that time constraints on the part of the Dickinson County Road Commission delayed the project until the easements expired. Peterson voiced her support for this project. Stanchina clarified that the bike path must be continuous and that the funding source would not allow the bike path to weave in and next to the road.

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It was concluded that the next step would be to obtain the necessary easements for the project. Pirkola expressed the opinion that it would be unlikely that the county would obtain the easements instead of the City. Jacobetti requested that Stanchina verify whether or not the grants funds are still available or extendable.

New Business

Resolution Opposing Senate Bill 34 Personal Property Tax Elimination Bill

Stanchina summarized the proposed resolution and noted the major points, highlighting the reductions of city revenue and the City's efforts to contain the situation. He detailed the efforts that the City has taken to control costs. Stanchina stated that a decrease in population would affect our Act 51 funds which are used to maintain our streets. Rosen expressed his disapproval for the level of revenue decreases the City is receiving and the underlying reasoning behind the decreases. Peterson relayed that she would like to see a physical representation of the Upper Peninsula City Managers in Lansing to testify at the senate hearing for this bill.

It was moved by Jacobetti and supported by Corombos to transmit the proposed resolution to the Michigan Municipal League, State Legislature, Finance Committee Chair, Jack Brandenburg, and the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Letter of Support for Legislation to provide a Quit Claim Deed to the YMCA RE: Crystal Lake Community Center

Stanchina stated that Dickinson County must gain clear title of the Crystal Lake Community Center to sell it to the YMCA. He conveyed that the City of Iron Mountain removed its interest in the property in 1991. Stanchina clarified that the YMCA would be able to sell the building to any interested party after they purchase it.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Jacobetti to authorize a letter of support for a Quit Claim Deed of the Crystal Lake Community Center to the YMCA.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Authorization to Solicit Bids for the MEDC Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement Grant Project

Stanchina stated that the goal was to combine a Safe Routes to School Grant and an Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement Grant project together; they primarily address sidewalks and underground utilities. He conveyed that the goal was to minimize disruption to the neighborhood and damage to the newly installed road surface. Stanchina said that the total cost of this project is projected to be \$342,600 with \$150,000 being contributed from the City's Water Fund. He detailed some additional paving that would also be taking place on 5th Street, in conjunction with the grant projects. Stanchina informed the City Council that the window for this project would be between July 8, 2011 and Labor Day. Jacobetti stressed the importance of maintaining the City's infrastructure.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Villa to authorize the solicitation of bids for the MEDC Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement Grant Project.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Authorization to Attend MML Capital Conference

Stanchina detailed the benefits of attending the conference. He noted that he would like prior approval in the event he decides to attend, as the conference is taking place during the City's budget process. Farragh supported the idea that Stanchina should attend the conference.

It was moved by Farragh and supported by Jacobetti to send Stanchina to the MML Capital Conference.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Discussion of Legal Recourse Pertaining to the City Wide Reassessment

Stanchina provided the City Council with the facts and the options for legal recourse as far as the City Wide Reassessment is concerned. Pirkola noted that recovering an overpayment may be the best way to begin the process. He estimated that it would cost the City \$3,000 - \$5,000 to get the case up and running. Pirkola stressed the importance of being able to collect a judgment. The City Council supported moving forward with litigation.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Farragh to authorize the beginning of the legal process.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Reports

Financial Reports

Corombos recommended that the Claims and Payroll be paid. Stanchina informed the City Council that the City has secured a rate of \$.499 per cubic foot for natural gas over the next year.

It was moved by Corombos and supported by Farragh to pay the Claims in the amount of \$550,775.94 and the Payroll in the amount of \$285,920.07.

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

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City Manager Reports

Stanchina informed the City Council on the status of the City HVAC project. He said that the bid opening will be at tomorrow's TIFA Meeting.

Stanchina conveyed that the Mountain View Ice Arena is doing better fiscally now that open skate tickets have been discontinued.

Stanchina relayed that rental properties are being registered and that housing inspections are taking place.

Stanchina informed the City Council that disposal charges will not be increasing this year. He stated that the water rates were lowered to accommodate the increase in refuse disposal costs, as to not affect the customer.

Stanchina updated the City Council on the status of the North Side Polling Location. He conveyed that the City will have to begin paying rent, if the elections are going to be held at the Immaculate Conception Church. Peterson expressed the opinion that those who walk to the polling place would be affected by selecting a new location. She suggested that an election day shuttle could be put in place.

Stanchina stated that the land which the City would be swapping for in the Dr. John Fornetti deal would be contaminated according to preliminary assessments. He raised the idea that contamination would not be as much of a factor if the property was turned into a road.

City Attorney Reports

None

Committee Reports

Corombos noted that the Construction Code Commission is having some difficulties, as their revenue is based on the permits that are issued.

Public Comment

None

Council Member Privilege

Peterson announced that hospice care is now available in the area. She provided the background and contact information for the program.

Adjournment

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

Motion Prevailed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Isaac Micheau
Clerk-Treasurer