

A regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at the Ishpeming Senior Center. Mayor Gary Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Gary Nelson, Council Members Patricia Bureau, Claudia Demarest, Pat Scanlon and John Stone. Present: Five (5). Absent: None (0). Also present were Interim City Manager Jim Bjerne and City Attorney David Savu.

PRESENTATION TO SETH JOHNSON (KAREN JOHNSON WILL ACCEPT)

On behalf of the City of Ishpeming, Councilwoman Bureau presented a personalized clock to Mrs. Karen Johnson in honor of her late husband, Mr. Seth Johnson, who passed away last month. Councilwoman Bureau stated that Mr. Johnson was a quiet, unassuming man who gathered knowledge to help the citizens of this community, always exploring avenues to make this City the best it could be. Councilwoman Bureau stated that over the past 30 years, Mr. Johnson served on several committees including: Charter Revision Committee, Marq-Tran Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Housing Appeals Board, Ishpeming Area Wastewater Board, Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority, and the Deer Lake Public Advisory Council. Councilwoman Bureau stated that Mr. Johnson's contributions to this City will be greatly missed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilman Stone and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (December 16, 2009)
- b. Approval of Disbursements (Mayor Nelson and Councilman Stone)
- c. Monthly Financial Report
- d. Designate the Mining Journal as the official publishing organ for 2010
- e. Designate the Peninsula Bank, Wells Fargo, and the Ishpeming Community Federal Credit Union as official depositories for 2010
- f. Declare Library books as surplus

Ayes: Four (4). Nays: None (0). Abstained: Mayor Nelson. One (1). Motion carried.

PROMOTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AWARD – BRONZE LEVEL (MICHIGAN FITNESS FOUNDATION)

City Clerk Rajala announced that the City of Ishpeming has been awarded a Promoting Active Communities Bronze Level Award from the Michigan Fitness Foundation. Mrs. Rajala stated that the Promoting Active Communities (PAC) application was completed over several weeks last year. Mrs. Rajala stated that based on the responses to a very lengthy application, the City

was assigned a rating based on several factors including: zoning and planning policies, park and recreation facilities, streets, safety, and the availability of and access to city services, shopping and schools. Mrs. Rajala stated that the primary emphasis of the PAC program is to encourage communities to become more walkable and bikeable. City Clerk Rajala stated that the report will be presented to the Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Downtown Development Authority.

ISHPEMING BUSINESS ASSOCIATION REQUEST REGARDING THE TORCH TREK EVENT ON JANUARY 28, 2010

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilman Stone to approve the request from the Ishpeming Business Association to arrange for the necessary street closures, as presented, for the annual Torch Trek event in downtown Ishpeming on Thursday, January 28, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 6-400, PLACING OF SNOW AND ICE UPON THE FIRE HYDRANTS, STREETS, ALLEYS, AND SIDEWALKS

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to approve, as of the second reading, the amendments to Ordinance No. 6-400, *An Ordinance to Prohibit the Placing of Snow and Ice upon the Fire Hydrants, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks in the City of Ishpeming*, as presented. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Interim City Manager Bjorne announced that a letter will be sent to all of the downtown business owners to notify them that changes have been made to the ordinance. The Interim City Manager stated that the City will implement these changes gradually in an effort to eliminate the problems and to treat all business owners equitably.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 6-401, ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE PLACED UPON FIRE HYDRANTS, STREETS, ALLEYS, OR SIDEWALKS

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to adopt, as of the second reading, Ordinance No. 6-401, *An Ordinance to Impose Fees and Charges for the Removal of Snow and Ice Placed Upon Fire Hydrants, Streets, Alleys, or Sidewalks in the City of Ishpeming*, as presented. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

NOQUEMANON REQUEST TO USE TRAIL

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to approve the *MGHS Noquemanon Ski Marathon Trail Access Agreement*, as presented and as amended by the City Attorney, and to authorize Mayor Nelson to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Ishpeming. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

GREENWOOD STREET BRIDGE GRANT APPLICATION

Interim City Manager Bjorne reported that ECI has prepared the MDOT grant application for the repair and replacement of the Greenwood Street Bridge. The Interim City Manager reported that the total cost of the project is \$488,214.00; \$463,803.30 (95%) to be paid from the MDOT grant with a City match of \$24,410.70 (5%). The Interim City Manager stated that the City's match has been budgeted in the FY2010 Major Street Fund. Interim City Manager Bjorne stated that construction is expected to begin in August 2010.

A motion was made by Councilman Stone and seconded by Councilman Scanlon to authorize Interim City Manager Bjorne to sign the MDOT grant application for the Greenwood Street Bridge Replacement Project as presented. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to approve a \$100.00 payment to the Ishpeming Ski Hall of Fame and Museum for dinner tickets to the 2009 Annual Banquet. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

COUNCILMAN SCANLON

Councilman Scanlon stated that the Public Works Director and the Interim City Manager have both been working very hard to resolve the snow removal complaints. Councilman Scanlon stated that Public Works Director Kangas is working on a snow removal street map.

Councilman Scanlon recommended that the City consider implementing a more formal training program for new snowplow drivers.

COUNCILMAN STONE

Councilman Stone reported that he attended the Central Dispatch meeting and the Library Committee meeting.

Councilman Stone stated that considering the amount of snow we received in such a short period of time, the Public Works Department has done an excellent job of keeping the streets and sidewalks plowed. Councilman Stone reminded the residents that the City is short staffed and urged everyone to be patient throughout these winter months.

COUNCILWOMAN BUREAU

Councilwoman Bureau commented on the snow removal issues. Councilwoman Bureau agreed that the Public Works Department has done a fantastic job, despite the fact that we have received a tremendous amount of snow and that the City is short staffed.

COUNCILWOMAN DEMAREST

Councilwoman Demarest stated that the DPW has been doing a really good job with the amount of staff and the amount of snow that they have had to plow.

MAYOR NELSON

Mayor Nelson reported that he attended the December meeting of the Downtown Development Authority. Mayor Nelson stated that the DDA Director's contract was not renewed for 2010. Mayor Nelson stated that at a future meeting, the DDA will consider whether or not to fill the vacancy. Mayor Nelson stated that the position was originally created when the City joined the Michigan Main Street Program; however the City is no longer affiliated with that program.

Mayor Nelson announced that five candidates for the City Manager position will be interviewed on Monday, January 11, 2010 at Ishpeming City Hall. Mayor Nelson reminded the City Council Members to review their interview questions and recommended that the questions remain consistent during each interview.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim City Manager Bjorne reported that the DDA Director's position is now vacant and stated that the DDA office will be closed. Interim City Manager Bjorne stated that he and other staff members will be taking the necessary measures to close that office and move the furniture and files back to City Hall.

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to forego individual copies of the monthly financial report and to have available to the City Council Members one copy of the monthly financial report in the City Manager's office for review each month. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR / CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Public Works Director Kangas stated that he appreciated the kind comments made this evening regarding the snow removal issues. Public Works Director Kangas stated that this is his first winter as Public Works Director and he is doing his best to work through the snow removal issues.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS STATUS OF UNION NEGOTIATIONS

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to enter into closed session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss the status of labor negotiations. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Councilwoman Bureau, Councilwoman Demarest, Councilman Scanlon, Councilman Stone and Mayor Nelson. Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Bureau to return to open session at 9:05 p.m. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Bureau to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Jenifer M. Rajala
City Clerk