

A regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, February 3, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meetings (January 6, 11, 13, and 21, 2010)
- b. Approval of Disbursements (Council Members Demarest and Scanlon)
- c. Monthly Financial Report

Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT TO JOSEPH JUIDICI FOR 25 YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT

Mayor Nelson announced that Mr. Juidici was unable to attend the meeting tonight to receive his Certificate of Retirement. Mayor Nelson congratulated Mr. Juidici on his retirement and wished him well. Councilman Stone stated that Mr. Juidici did an outstanding job for the City and thanked Mr. Juidici for his service to the City. Councilwoman Bureau stated that she appreciates Mr. Juidici's dedication to the City and thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the community. Councilwoman Demarest thanked Mr. Juidici for his dedicated service and wished him well on his retirement. Councilman Scanlon stated that he had the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Juidici in person.

LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION AND 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Mr. Tom Edmark, Mr. Rick Ament, Mr. Matt Johnson, Mrs. Lois Ellis, and Mrs. Amy Clickner were present to discuss the Lake Superior Community Partnership's (LSCP) role in the activities on the west end of Marquette County and to review the LSCP's 2010 strategic plan.

Mr. Tom Edmark, Iron Range Insurance Agency, reviewed the LSCP's 2009 Year End Report and the 2010 Strategic Plan.

Mr. Matt Johnson, Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company, stated that Kennecott purchased the former CCI office building and stated that they look forward to a long term relationship with the

City of Ishpeming. Mr. Johnson stated that Kennecott's operations continue to grow and stated that they now have 25 employees in their Ishpeming office. Mr. Johnson stated that the City of Ishpeming and the LSCP were two of Kennecott's earliest public supporters for their Eagle mining project. Mr. Johnson discussed the anti-mining ballot initiative. Mr. Johnson discussed the importance of having the continued support from the local communities and the LSCP as Kennecott fights the anti-mining ballot initiative.

Mr. Rick Ament, Bell Hospital CEO and LSCP board member, stated that Bell Hospital is the largest employer within the City of Ishpeming. Mr. Ament stated that Bell Hospital is a major donor to the LSCP because they believe that economic development is a county wide strategic initiative. Mr. Ament stated that Bell Hospital currently employs 500 people and continues to grow. Mr. Ament stated that Bell Hospital will continue to support economic development in Marquette County and encouraged the City to offer its support for economic development through the LSCP.

#### COSTS TO MAINTAIN THE SKI TRAILS ON PROPERTY OWNED BY ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP

Interim City Manager Bjorne reported that at the last Special Council Meeting, a motion was approved to continue grooming the Deer Lake Trail as funds permit. The Interim City Manager presented a cost report for the maintenance and grooming expenses that were incurred from October 2, 2009 through January 21, 2010. The Interim City Manager stated that there were 10 hours of trail preparation and 16 hours of trail grooming during that time period at a cost of \$1,496.88.

Mr. Jon Kangas, Public Works Director, reported that no trail usage data is available. The Public Works Director stated that they do not have enough staff available to monitor the trails.

Councilwoman Bureau questioned the amount of revenue that is generated from the trail passes.

Councilman Stone recommended that the City continue to monitor the trail maintenance costs. Councilman Stone recommended that the new City Manager be requested to meet with the Ishpeming Township Supervisor in an effort to work out a maintenance agreement with Ishpeming Township.

Councilman Scanlon requested a comprehensive revenue report for all of the Al Quaal winter activities.

#### MICHIGAN STATE POLICE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

Interim City Manager Bjorne reported that the Michigan State Police Department received a Rural Law Enforcement Grant which has ties to Homeland Security. The Interim City Manager stated that the grant was designed to put additional troopers in our area to provide Hometown Security Teams. Interim City Manager Bjorne stated that the Upper Peninsula team is now in place and is available to assist our police department. Interim City Manager Bjorne stated that some of the activities they could assist us with include: enforcing traffic problems on Hwy 41, monitoring areas of drug activity, and patrolling problem areas. Interim City Manager Bjorne

stated that use of this special team will be at no cost to the City and will provide an additional police presence to support our officers as requested by the Chief of Police.

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Jim Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilman Stone to accept the services from the Michigan State Police Department's Homeland Security Team as presented. Utilization of the Hometown Security Team will be at the discretion of the Ishpeming Chief of Police. Ayes: Five. Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

#### LIBRARY CLOSURE REQUEST

At the recommendation of Head Librarian Cindy Mack, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilman Stone to approve the closure of the library on Monday, February 15 and Tuesday, February 16, 2010 for the purpose of having the interior of the library repainted. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

#### EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT WITH THE WATER AUTHORITY TO BE THE OPERATOR-IN-CHARGE OF THE CITY WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

At the recommendation of Public Works Director Kangas and Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to extend the S-2 service contract with Mr. Tony McGrath of the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority until March 30, 2010. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

#### REQUEST TO CLOSE STREETS FOR CARNIVAL

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to approve the request from Mr. Kurt Kipling for the annual downtown carnival and to approve the necessary street closures from April 28 through May 2, 2010, as presented. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

#### 2010 ELECTED OFFICIALS CONFERENCES

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to authorize the City Council Members to attend the MML Regional Meeting, the MML Capitol Conference, and the MML Annual Conference; all conference expenses shall be the sole responsibility of each City Council Member attending the conference. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Interim City Manager Bjorne reported that the welcome reception for Mr. Jered Ottenwess will be held sometime during the week of March 22, 2010. The Interim City Manager stated that the reception will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Ishpeming Senior Center. Interim City Manager Bjorne stated that the reception will be open to the general public.

At the recommendation of the Interim City Manager, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to authorize an expenditure of up to \$200.00 from the community promotions budget for the City Manager's welcome reception. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Councilman Scanlon suggested that the DDA be asked to contribute up to \$100 towards the reception costs.

NEW BUSINESS

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne and Public Works Director Kangas, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest, to approve the purchase of a safety trench box from Nortrax of Escanaba in the amount of \$3,427.25; expenditure shall be made from the DPW forklift line item. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to schedule a public hearing for Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ishpeming Senior Center to hear and receive comments regarding the sale of real property located at 630 Vine Street. In the event that a special City Council meeting is scheduled prior to March 3, 2010 and only if the proper notification requirements can be met, the public hearing will be held at the special meeting. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

At the recommendation of Head Librarian Cindy Mack, a motion was made by Councilwoman Demarest and seconded by Councilwoman Bureau to lift the hiring freeze in order to fill the vacant, part-time custodian/maintenance position at the Carnegie Public Library that resulted from the retirement announcement from Mr. Dave Engstrom. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

At the recommendation of Interim City Manager Bjorne and City Attorney Savu, a motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to authorize Mayor Nelson to sign the addendum to the MEBS Administrative Service Agreement, as presented. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Interim City Manager Bjorne announced that Mr. Scott Richards of AECOM has requested an opportunity to present additional information regarding Partridge Creek funding opportunities. The Interim City Manager stated that the City is eligible to apply for the second round of MEDC Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement (ICE) funds. Interim City Manager Bjorne stated that the Partridge Creek Diversion project is an eligible activity under the ICE grant. Interim City Manager Bjorne stated that the maximum grant amount is \$750,000.

Mr. Scott Richards reviewed the Notice of Intent document and stated that the due date is February 22, 2010. Mr. Richards stated that the City of Ishpeming will incur no costs for AECOM's preparation and submission of the Notice of Intent. Mr. Richards stated that while no local match amount is required for the ICE grant, AECOM is recommending that the City designate a local match. Mr. Richards stated that communities that have offered a 10% local match have historically secured funding through this program. Mr. Richards stated that should the City choose to move forward with this grant opportunity, the City Council must adopt a Letter of Resolution and approve the Notice of Intent.

A discussion ensued regarding local match funds. Mr. Richards stated that the City may be eligible for USDA Rural Development funds to use towards the match. Mr. Richards stated that until those funds become available, he is requesting that the City offers a local match amount as a good faith measure to increase the success of the application.

A motion was made by Mayor Nelson and seconded by Councilwoman Bureau to authorize AECOM to apply for a \$750,000 MEDC ICE grant on behalf of the City of Ishpeming for the Partridge Creek Diversion Project, to authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the Notice of Intent, and to continue to work with the AECOM representatives to explore options for providing the City's local match. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

COUNCILWOMAN DEMAREST

Councilwoman Demarest reported that she attended the Cemetery Board meeting and the Downtown Development Authority meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN BUREAU

Councilwoman Bureau reported that she attended the MML Board of Trustees meeting and stated that Senator Bishop, Majority Leader of the State Senate, was the special guest speaker at the meeting. Councilwoman Bureau summarized the content of Senator Bishop's presentation.

Councilwoman Bureau stated that she attended the District Library Committee meeting and stated that the meeting was well-attended. Councilwoman Bureau stated that the next step is to review the budgets and services provided by each of the local libraries.

Councilwoman Bureau reported that she attended the Planning Commission meeting and stated that a public hearing was held to receive comments regarding the updated Master Plan.

COUNCILMMAN STONE

Councilman Stone stated that he attended the monthly NMPSA meeting.

Councilman Stone read portions of a letter from Mrs. Anne Giroux regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Councilman Stone reported that due to a loss of committee members, the Al Quaal Picnic has been cancelled for 2010. Councilman Stone stated that the committee will continue the parade, the fireworks, softball tournaments and the 5K Run. Councilman Stone stated that the committee members are seeking other volunteers to take over the responsibilities of the community picnic.

Councilman Stone reported that he attended the Library Board meeting.

COUNCILMAN SCANLON

Councilman Scanlon reported that he attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting. Councilman Scanlon stated that the meeting was well-attended.

Councilman Scanlon reported that he was very disappointed to read in the media that Governor Granholm will be cutting 200 road jobs. Councilman Scanlon stated that he is concerned that our Greenwood Bridge project could be affected by this announcement. Carr Baldwin, ECI,

stated that he did not believe that the Greenwood Bridge Project would be affected by the Governor's announcement.

MAYOR NELSON

Mayor Nelson reported that he attended the DDA meeting. Mayor Nelson stated that the DDA will defer any decisions about filling the vacant DDA Director's position until the new City Manager is here. Mayor Nelson stated that the DDA discussed the importance of clear communication between the DDA and the City Council.

Mayor Nelson reported that he attended the ACT 345 meeting. Mayor Nelson stated that the funds are improving; however the funds have not completely recovered from the 2008 losses. Mayor Nelson stated that it is unlikely that the ACT 345 retirees will receive a "13<sup>th</sup> check" this year.

MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR / CITY ENGINEER REPORT

A written report from the Public Works Director was submitted to the City Council for their review.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS STATUS OF UNION NEGOTIATIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY/CLIENT COMMUNICATIONS

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Demarest to enter into closed session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss the status of labor negotiations and confidential attorney/client communications. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Councilwoman Bureau, Councilwoman Demarest, Councilman Scanlon, Councilman Stone and Mayor Nelson. Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Bureau to return to open session at 9:45 p.m. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Scanlon and seconded by Councilwoman Bureau to appoint Mr. Alan Bakalarski as the City's chief negotiating consultant for the current union negotiations, effective February 4, 2010. Mr. Bakalarski shall be paid at his current hourly rate. 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 9:47 p.m. Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Jenifer M. Rajala  
City Clerk