

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2003
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Legion Room of the Iron River City Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present included Councilmen Tom Beber, Virgil Thompson, Klint Safford, Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom, City Manager Rick Commenator, City Attorney Mark Tousignant and City Clerk Peggy Shamion. (Absent – Ray Coates)

Others in attendance included Sally Blythe, Karen Paddock, George and Diane Treado, Geoff Sitkoski, Arthur Sacheck, Alfred Perlongo, Craig Tarsi and Bill LaRock.

Amendments to the agenda included adding under Public Comment (a) Geoff Sitkoski with WIC Booster Club and under New Business (b) Sons of American Legions – Flags be moved to Public Comment (b). With that, Beber moved to approve the amended agenda and Thompson supported. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

Thompson moved with Safford supporting to approve the minutes from the regular city meeting of March 5, 2003 as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geoff Sitkoski was present on behalf of “Friends of Nelson Field”, a sub committee of the WIC Booster Club. Their plans are for a three phase project to administer improvements to Nelson Field which the city couldn’t get grant funding for.

**NELSON
FIELD
IMPROVE-
MENTS-
FRIENDS OF
NELSON
FIELD**

Sitkoski was asking that the city give permission to them, if they raise the funds, to implement the project (phase 1 & 2). Phase 3 will be done in Caspian.

Thompson then moved, while Beber supported to authorize permission for the sub committee “Friends of Nelson Field” to implement phases 1 & 2 at Nelson Field, if the funds get raised.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Coates Motion carried.

Safford made a motion to donate \$500 to the “Sons of American Legion” to be used for purchasing new flags for the city. Thompson supported the motion.

**DONATION
FOR NEW
FLAGS**

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Coates Motion carried.

Karen Paddock was present with concerns about enforcing the Blight Ordinance on Minckler Street behind Lake Shore, Inc. She complained about wood being piled on city property, weeds growing on the city building that burned, cars being parked on sidewalks, etc.

**BLIGHT
ORDINANCE
ENFORCE-
MENT ON
MINCKLER
ST**

After some discussion, Thompson moved with Safford supporting to have Manager Commenator see that the ordinances are enforced.

**ENFORCE
ORDI-
NANCES**

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Coates Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Thompson moved with Beber supporting to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of Red Cross Blood Drive notice, Iron River Housing Commission minutes of 2-11-03, Stambaugh Housing Commission minutes of 2-11-03 & 3-11-03 and a Notice of Public Hearing on proposed gravel pit permits. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

The City Manager’s report was reviewed. Fifth Ave. Bridge is on the critical bridge list to be funded for replacement. However, the main interceptor sewer line crosses the river at the same location and is a concern with the bridge replacement. If it doesn’t effect replacement the engineers estimate the construction at \$300,000 minimum. With engineering, our cost would be \$75,000 or more.

**5TH AVE.
BRIDGE
REPLACE-
MENT**

After some discussion, Soderbloom moved not to proceed with the replacement of the 5th Ave. Bridge project, and that the \$75,000 that would have been used for the project, is used towards other street repairs. Thompson supported the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Coates Motion passed.

There was some discussion regarding the sale of the Franklin Street Garage. Safford noted that it should not be sold, as the deed to the neighbor reflects that the property would revert to a park when the city is not longer using the property.

**SELLING
FRANKLIN
ST. GARAGE**

Commenator will check on the furnace from the Franklin Street Garage and see if it can be used at the Chalet, as the one there is outdated.

Beber moved with Thompson supporting to accept the reports. All were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIALS

Invoice #241400 for \$1,508.75 from STS Consultants for the North District Water Application was approved for payment on a motion from Beber and Thompson supporting.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Coates Motion carried.

Thompson moved with Beber supporting to pay \$1,920.00 to Mike’s Crane Service for thawing water at 827 – 6th Ave. (Miller).

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Coates Motion passed.

An invoice from UP Engineers & Architects for services on the Apple Blossom Trail totaling \$1,811.00 was approved for payment on a motion from Beber with Thompson supporting.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Coates Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Commenator informed the board that the city submitted the two drainage projects (one on snowmobile trail and one by Family Dollar) to the Corps of Engineer’s and they have responded. Last summer they inspected the site and they commented that they thought the culvert across U.S. 2 was to small to handle the amount of water. When engineers did the initial report, they felt the \$15,000 - \$20,000 project may turn into \$50,000 - \$90,000 if we have to tear up the road and put a new culvert in.

The engineers submitted a project to the Corp of Engineers, to put rip-rap on both sides of the highway. The Corp has informed Commenator, that they can come up with the \$90,000 if we want to replace the culvert and do it properly. The engineers had quoted us “not to exceed” \$6,800 and have spent about \$2,200 on the original work.

Commenator was seeking authorization from the board to have them continue to fix the culvert properly. Since that time, STS Consultants have had a preliminary discussion with MDOT regarding the size of the culvert and it’s replacement and are informed that MDOT did that type of hydraulic study and did approve the size of the culvert. They will get report to us. The problem is where we have a 24” culvert going underneath the highway, the catch basin on the north side of the highway was somewhat smaller than 24”.

Beber moved with Soderbloom supporting to proceed with the Corp. of Engineers, if the Corp will fix the culvert properly.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Coates Motion carried.

**APPROVE
PYMT TO
MIKE’S
CRANE FOR
THAWING
WATER AT
827 – 6TH
AVE.**

**CORP. OF
ENGINEER-
ING FOR
DRAINAGE
PROJECT BY
FAMILY
DOLLAR**

A committee has been meeting regarding water and sewer rates. In summary, the rates will stay the same and the definition of a user for billing purposes will be more specific in an attempt to alleviate previous problems. Commercial buildings will be billed according to tax identification numbers. The word "user" was also defined more clearly.

**W/S RATE
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Craig Tarsi had questions about the amendments to the ordinance. He felt the businesses were being penalized and thought the city could spread the billing across the board more, so it would be fairer. He felt the city could possibly bill by meter.

**INTRODUCE
SEWER
AMEND-
MENTS**

Beber moved to introduce the sewer ordinance amendments.

Beber moved to introduce the water ordinance amendments, with the correction of the Iron River South readiness to serve changed to \$22.50 instead of \$21.00.

**INTRODUCE
WATER
AMEND-
MENTS**

A Public Hearing was set up for Wednesday, April 9, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Legion Room of the Iron River City Hall.

**PUBLIC
HEARING
SET**

NEW BUSINESS

A request was received from Michigan Municipal League for a contribution to the "Enhancing Local Government" project. Beber moved with Soderbloom supporting to table any decision and let legal council review the matter. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**DONATION
TO MML FOR
ENHANCING
LOCAL GOV**

Beber requested a three minute recess. (7:14 p.m.) The board approved.

RECESS

Meeting resumed at 7:17 p.m.

Beber moved with Thompson supporting to send a letter of support to the City of Caspian for the pending MDNR Grant Application to extend Apple Blossom Trail eastbound to the Caspian/Gaastra City limits. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**LETTER OF
SUPPORT
TO CASPIAN
FOR GRANT**

Beber moved with Thompson supporting to approve the by-laws for the Stambaugh Housing Commission with the change of the address (due to consolidation). All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVE
BY-LAWS
FOR STMBO
HOUSING
COMM**

Beber moved with Soderbloom supporting to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**Peggy Shamion, CMC
City Clerk**