

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2003  
6:00 P.M.**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Rose Tarsi, Steele Magnet, Tom & Damon Nasser, Wayne & Karen Wales, Marilyn Sadino, Rosalie King, Bernie Sacheck, Bernard St. Germain, Lisa Powell, Ben Smith, George Treado, Mike & Marsha Gursky and J.D. & Kim Flood, also attended the meeting.

Beber moved to amend the agenda to include under Old Business 10 (e) Unsafe buildings; under New Business (a) Charitable Gaming Resolution. Thompson supported the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

The minutes of the previous meeting of June 4, 2003 were approved on a motion from Coates with Thompson supporting . All were in favor. Motion passed.

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON CABLE FRANCHISE ORDINANCE**

Mayor Soderbloom opened the Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Attorney Tousignant pointed out that both the Stambaugh Cable Company and Caspian Cable Company have asked to opt in with regard to the Cable Franchise. They have agreed to pay the fee that was established, which would pay the attorney fees and publications, at a cost of approximately \$1.00/per subscriber.

**PUBLIC  
HEARING ON  
CABLE  
FRANCHISE  
ORDINANCE**

There were no other comments and Mayor Soderbloom noted that the public hearing would remain open in conjunction with the regular city meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Gursky asked about the status of his neighbor at 1421 W. Franklin Street constructing two buildings with no building permit. Manager Commenator will investigate the complaint.

**COMPLAINT  
REGARDING  
1421 W.  
FRANKLIN  
ST.**

Rosalie King spoke on behalf of 911 and reminded everyone of the upcoming election in September. She asked if the board had any questions, she would like to answer them.

911

Safford asked about getting charged for 911 two times on the phone bills. King explained that they have no control over what the phone companies charge the people, the 911 system only charges once.

The Consent Agenda, which consisted of Stambaugh Housing Commission minutes of 5-13-03 and the Iron River Housing Commission minutes of 5-13-03, was approved on a motion from Thompson and Coates supporting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT  
AGENDA

Beber moved with Coates supporting to approve the manager's report. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MGR'S  
REPORT

Beber moved with Coates supporting to accept the budget line item adjustments as outlined by Manager Commenator.  
Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

BUDGET  
LINE ITEM  
ADJMT

Mayor Soderbloom closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Water and sewer rates were discussed next. Manager Commenator was looking for some direction from the board as to what they want to do about inequities in billing. Previously, they were given two different proposals and no decision has been made. He explained that a small citizens group has obtained all information from the staff, and are working on a resolution, but no results have been presented to date.

W/S RATES

Thompson moved to set up a Citizens Committee to discuss the water/sewer rates. Soderbloom supported the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Beber moved with Thompson supporting that Iron River Co-operative Antenna Corporation, Stambaugh Cable Company and Caspian TV Corporation each be granted a franchise consistent with that which was introduced and set forth in proposed Ordinance #A-203 Cable Franchise and that they be numbered A-2003, B-2003 and C-2003 respectively. Further resolved that the legal fees and publication cost incurred by the city in the amount of \$1,500, in the preparation and publication of the ordinances be reimbursed, by the respective cable television operators pro-rated by the number of subscribers that each has. Further, the franchise shall only become effective upon the payment of the incorporated fees.  
Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

APPROVAL  
OF CABLE  
TV FRAN-  
CHISE  
ORDINANCE  
#A-2003

Coates has received complaints from residents as to why they have to maintain sidewalks, but they don't own them.

SIDEWALKS

After some discussion, Attorney Tousignant told the board that the insurance carried has the city adopt ordinances, shifting the responsibility from the city onto the homeowner.

The U.S. 2 and M-189 intersection was discussed. Councilmen Safford asked that a statement of his be read out loud. (see attached)

**M-189 & U.S.  
2 INTER-  
SECTION**

Wayne Wales interjected that when demolishing commercial buildings with government money there are requirements that must be followed from the DEQ. However, you do not have to be a licensed contractor as long as you abide by all requirements. If the contractor is in violation of any requirements the city will be subject to a \$27,000/day fine. Wales also emphasized obtaining a performance bond.

**JEAN'S  
FLORAL  
BUILDING**

Manager Commenator responded to Safford's statement and noted that there are inconsistencies in his information.

Wayne Wales suggested not releasing the \$30,000, don't call for new bids, just let the DDA continue with their plans.

Safford then made a motion to ask for new bids from licensed demolition contractors who have all the DEQ forms and meet their four requirements and that we use TIF funds to do the work after Three Point Development gives the property to the city for one dollar. After the building is torn down and the State gets the land it needs to widen the curve, the city gives their remaining land back to Three Point Development, because it is in the best interest of the city and taxpayers to do so. Beber supported the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: 2 – Safford & Thompson Nays: 3 – Beber, Coates and Soderbloom. Motion was defeated.

Mayor Soderbloom talked to our legislatures regarding unsafe buildings owned by the State of Michigan, in town. The answer she got was that the state doesn't do anything with their properties. She then read the Housing Law and asked Attorney Tousignant if there was anything the city could do with regard to this law. Tousignant told her they would just throw it out of court.

**UNSAFE  
BUILDINGS  
OWNED BY  
THE STATE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Beber moved with Soderbloom supporting to approve the Charitable Gaming Resolution for the West Iron County School Foundation.

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**APPROVE  
CHARTBL  
GAMING  
RESOLU-  
TION**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Wayne Wales asked what the status is on the trailer located on Ben Smith's property on Harding Ave. Manager Commenator will check into it.

**BEN  
SMITH'S  
TRAILER**

Coates moved with Beber supporting to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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**Peggy Shamion, CMC  
City Clerk**