

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING – MANAGER’S CONTRACT  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2003  
2:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 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 Ray Coates, Tom Beber, Virgil Thompson, Roger Zanon, Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom, City Manager Rick Commenator, City Attorney Mark Tousignant and City Clerk Peggy Shamion.

Beth Huizing also attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the City Manager’s contract.

There seemed to be confusion regarding the previous motion that was made regarding the City Manager’s contract.

Mayor Soderbloom said that her interpretation of the previous meeting was that Manager Commenator’s contract would not be renewed in January and that he would be an “at will employee” for 90 days.

Coates said when he made the motion his intent was not to renew the contract but to have him stay for three months and pay him the same salary and wages.

Commenator then interjected that the motion as it appears in the minutes is as it was discussed and redrafted and reread at that meeting. It is his understanding that he doesn’t have a contract and that he is working for the city for three months after the first of the year. His employment was extended, without an extension of the current contract.

Commenator is free to apply for the position again.

Tousignant then said he was confused regarding the motion. He asked if it is an evaluation period, or if your going to let him go there is a formality you must follow per the Charter.

Tousignant clarified that the Manager will be an “at will employee” during the three months and you can do what ever the boards desire is with him.

Mayor Soderbloom commented that she has spoke to Manager Commenator and told him that she was very disturbed with the “no action” taken on the consent

order with the DEQ. Also the GASB 34 was a sore spot with her, but Commenator has told her that he will not take any responsibility for that. This has all taken place, since the evaluation.

Tousignant asked what the intent was with the council at this point.

The meeting recessed at 2:20 p.m. so Coates could confer with Tousignant.

The meeting resumed at 2:22 p.m.

It was pointed out that the board can conduct interviews with other candidates for the position of City Manager, which will not require the presence of the current Manager.

When Coates asked if the board interviews and finds a person to fill the Manager position, do they have to wait the three months.

Tousignant stated that, if you decide to hire a different person you have to refer to the Charter Section 3.02.

Beber moved with Coates supporting to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned  
at 2:35 p.m.

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Peggy Shamion, CMC  
City Clerk