

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2004
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.

Mayor Soderbloom requested a moment of silence in memory of former President Ronald Reagan.

Members present included Virgil Thompson, Roger Zanon, Ray Coates, Tom Beber, Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom, City Manager John Archocosky, City Attorney Mark Tousignant and City Clerk Peggy Shamion.

Terry Tarsi, George & Diane Treado, Arthur Scheck and Craig Richardson also attended the meeting.

Amendments to the agenda included adding under New Business 11 (f) 1st Annual membership meeting to Northern Michigan Public Service Academy and under Old Business (c) Water project discussion.

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

Beber moved with Thompson supporting to approve the amended agenda. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Coates moved with Thompson supporting to approve the Regular meeting minutes of May 19, 2004, Regular meeting/Workshop minutes of May 26, 2004 and the Public Hearing – Budget minutes of May 28, 2004 as written. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVE
MINUTES**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Tarsi was present and spoke as a concerned businessmen in regard to the increase in the sewer rates. He stated that owners of small businesses are finding it harder to survive.

**TERRY
TARSI
SEWER
RATES**

Tarsi pointed out that correspondence the city received from the DNR states the city must raise \$227,000 annually for the sewer reserve fund and suggests charging \$10.00/per household to raise the money.

With the new increases in place, the minimum amount of gallons will be decreasing from 5,000 gallons to 4,000 gallons; any amount over 4,000 gallons will be billed \$6.50/1,000 gallons. Tarsi felt the money should be spread equally amongst the residents and not quantity based. He felt it wasn't practical and unfair.

Soderbloom interjected that the city has to do something because of the rising costs along with the DEQ fines and struggled with how to get the extra revenue.

**TERRY
TARSI
SEWER
RATES**

Tarsi pointed out that every year the debt at the sewer plant reduces and this should be monitored or else the city will be overcharging their customers.

Manager Archocosky invited Tarsi to meet with him and review the breakdown of the charges on the bill and the expenditures facing the city.

Tarsi noticed that other municipalities have made drastic cuts from within. He asked if Iron River has looked at making some reductions to hold costs down and not pass it on to the homeowner.

Archocosky stated that it has been looked at but the increased expenditures facing the city are from outside and the city has no control over them.

The Consent Agenda which was consisted of Metro Act 48 money received, RV Park report for May and copy of ad for Recreational Projects was approved on a motion from Thompson with Coates supporting. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

REPORTS

The Manager’s Pending Issue List was reviewed. Thompson and Coates were unhappy about the restoration that was taking place. Manager Archocosky and Attorney Tousignant will meet on Friday to review options on the restoration.

A meeting was held between the city and representatives from the school regarding Nelson Field maintenance. All maintenance issues were resolved; with the school taking on maintenance during school use. They will also sandblast and paint the stands. The school is asking that the city extend the present contract with the addition of the three-page maintenance list for three additional years. The reason being is because they will have to take a loan out to do the sandblasting and painting.

**NELSON
FIELD
MAINT-
ENANCE
AGREE-
MENT WITH
SCHOOL**

Tousignant presented the language for the sewer ordinance.

**INTRODUCE
AMENDMTS
TO SEWER
ORD # 3**

Beber moved to introduce the amendments to Sewer Ordinance #3.

Soderbloom moved to introduce the amendments to the Purchasing Ordinance #19.

**INTRODUCE
AMENDMTS
TO
PURCHAS-
ING ORD #19**

Soderbloom moved to introduce the amendments to the Burning Ordinance #17 (referring to outdoor furnaces) with the addition of a grandfather clause (for existing furnaces outdoors).

**INTRODUCE
AMENDMT
TO BURNING
ORD.**

Beber moved to introduce the amendment to the Blight Ordinance and the Noxious Weed Ordinance to remove Section 2.

**INTRODUCE
AMENDMT
TO BLIGHT &
NOXIOUS
WEEDS ORD**

Tousignant reported that the deed has been received from 3 Point Development, which was necessary to complete the project on 4th St. and U.S. 2.

Coates moved with Thompson supporting to adopt a Resolution authorizing deeding of property to the Michigan Dept. of Transportation, legally described as:

**ADOPT
RESOLU-
TION
DEEDING
PROPERTY
TO MDOT TO
COMPLETE
U.S. 2 & 189
INTERSEC-
TION**

“City of Iron River, County of Iron, State of Michigan, That part of Lot 1 of Block 17 of the Plat of the Village (now City) of Iron River which lies northwesterly of a line described as: beginning at a point which is the northern corner common to Lot 1 and 2, Block 17 of the Plat of the Village (now City) of Iron River, thence southeasterly to a point on the east lot line of Lot 1, which is 38 feet south of the northeast corner of Lot 1 of Block 17 of the Plat of the Village (now City) of Iron River. The area in fee contains 570 square feet”.

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

Tousignant reported that the Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld the position of the electric and gas utilities in that they ruled that the Tax Commission’s amortization tables are erroneous and the city will have to repay some property tax. Tousignant will speak to the Assessor to see when this started.

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

**DEPRT
REPORTS**

FINANCIALS

The May check register was accepted as presented on a motion from Beber with Soderbloom supporting. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**MAY CHECK
REGISTER**

May financials were approved on a motion from Coates with Beber supporting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**MAY
FINANCIALS**

Attorney Mark Tousignant’s bill for May of \$2,223.00 was approved for payment on a motion from Coates with Beber supporting.

**TOUSIG-
NANT’S BILL**

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

**APPROVE
PYMT FOR
APPLE
BLOSSOM
TRAIL**

U.P. Engineers invoice for the Apple Blossom Trail of \$51, 572.97 (to be paid to Hebert Construction) was approved for payment on a motion from Beber with Coates offering support.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Manager Archocosky is in the process of trying to change the scope of the Nelson Field project (due to the bids coming in high) and negotiate with the DNR to incorporate in the total project, and count as in-kind service, the city's investments they are making this summer, which is substantial.

**NELSON
FIELD
PROJECT
REJECT
BIDS**

Beber moved with Thompson supporting to reject all bids and return the bid bonds for the Nelson Field Project .

Beber moved to amend the budget as outlined by the Treasurer. Coates supported the motion.

**APPROVE
AMENDMTS
TO BUDGET**

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

NEW BUSINESS

Beber moved with Coates supporting to reappoint John Archocosky for a two-year term, to represent the City on the West Iron County Sewer Authority Board.

**REAPPOINT
J.
ARCHOCO-
SKY TO
WICSA**

All were in favor. Motion carried

Robert Mattson was re-appointed to the Stambaugh Housing Commission for a 5-year term to expire June 27, 2009, on a motion from Beber with Coates supporting. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**REAPPOINT
R. MATTSON
TO STMBO
HOUSING
COMMISS.**

The Northern Michigan Public Service Academy is holding it's 1st Annual Membership Lunch and Golf on June 25, 2004, if any Councilmen want to attend.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

Tousignant reported that he has been in contact with the owners of the house that burned on Stambaugh Hill and they will deed the property to the city. He has also agreed to assign to us any restitution that is forthcoming from the perpetrators of the crime.

**HOUSE
THAT
BURNED ON
STMBO HILL**

Beber asked if street signs could be put up to identify the old U.S. 2.

Thompson asked Manager Archocosky to look at the ditch on the north side of W. Franklin Street near the 1500 block. Piles of dirt have been dropped there.

Coates asked Manager Archocosky to check out the alley in the back of Happy Italian.

Beber moved to recess out of regular session and go into executive session to discuss union negotiations. Coates supported the motion.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried

Meeting adjourned out of regular session at 7:55 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Beber moved with Coates supporting to accept the continuation of the union contracts for the Public Works Dept. and the Police Dept. subject to the approve of the language by the City Attorney.

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

Beber moved with Coates supporting to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**MOTION TO
APPROVE
UNION
CONTRACTS
SUBJECT TO
LANGUAGE
CHANGES**

**Peggy Shamion, CMC
City Clerk**