

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 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.

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

A full house of residents attended the meeting.

Amendments to the agenda included under 9 (d) Pay request from James Spicer, Inc. for \$14, 168.74. With that, Beber moved with Thompson supporting approve the amended agenda. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

Regular/Workshop meeting minutes of July 21, 2004 were approved on a motion from Thompson with Coates supporting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL  
OF MINUTES**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Al Rizzardi questioned the discrepancy on his last two water bills where his usage doubled.

**RESIDENTS  
ON WATER  
RATE  
INCREASE**

Archocosky said that we can test his meter to see if something is wrong.

Florence Busakowski complained that she uses under the minimum and she is being charged for more than that and asked why she can't be billed for what she uses.

Archocosky interjected that the reason the bills are set up as they are is because there is a minimum amount that has to be generated monthly to meet the debt requirement that the city incurred when they did the water project. The average family in the city uses approximately 3700 gallons a month.

Rose Johnson felt that with the increase in rates the city will never be able to attract any businesses in the area, nor will people be interested in building new homes.

Archocosky explained that the cost is not the water itself. The cost associated with the \$7,000,000.00 project was the cost of replacing the infrastructure, pipes, hydrants and valves. Those things are fixed costs they had a fixed price going in and that is the reason we have a minimum. The minimum charge is calculated to be able to cover the cost of the debt.

**RESIDENTS  
ON WATER  
RATE  
INCREASE**

The Consent Agenda which consisted of the Iron River Watershed Council minutes of July 12, 2004, Election Commission minutes of July 28, 2004, WIC Fire Board minutes of July 19, 2004, WICSA minutes of June 28, 2004 and MML Correspondence dated July 2004, was approved on a motion from Thompson with Coates supporting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

A special meeting was scheduled for Friday, August 13, 2004 at 1:00 p.m., to discuss sewer issues in relation to the Consent Order.

Beber moved with Coates supporting to accept and file the City Manager/Pending Issue List, Police Dept & Public Works monthly reports. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**DEPT.  
REPORTS**

Attorney Tousignant reported that the codification process is moving along. He has been in contact with the owner of the outdoor furnace where the problem exists with the neighbor, and he is receptive to working out a solution. Nelson Field contract will be given to Archocosky shortly for his review and then sent on to the school.

**LEGAL  
REPORT**

Thompson moved with Coates supporting to accept the legal report. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Soderbloom gave a report on the Northern Michigan Public Service Academy meeting she attended.

**FINANCIALS**

The Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund quarterly payment of \$5,032.00 was approved on a motion from Coates and Beber supporting.

**APPROVE  
PYMT TO  
MML FOR  
WORKERS  
COMP.**

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

Thompson moved with Coates supporting to approve payment of Attorney Mark Tousignant's bill for July 2004 for \$2,573.69.

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

Payment was approved of \$20,132.95 to Hebert Construction for work completed on the Apple Blossom Trail, on a motion from Beber with Coates supporting.

**APPLE  
BLOSSOM  
TRAIL PYMT  
TO HEBERT**

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

Beber moved with Coates supporting to approve payment of \$14,168.79 to James Spicer, Inc. for the RV Park Middle Outlet.  
Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Zanon Motion passed.

**APPROVE  
PYMT TO  
JAMES  
SPICER FOR  
RV PARK  
OUTLET**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Thad Sartorelli concerns regarding the \$500 fee for a water tap was discussed. When the water project went through, they did not put a shut off valve in on the lot. Sartorelli wanted the board to waive the \$500 fee.

**THAD  
SARTORELLI  
WATER TAP  
FEE ISSUE**

Sartorelli wanted to install 1" pipe for the water, which is larger than the regular pipe. According to the ordinance, installation of 1" pipe would be billed by labor and materials, so the \$500 wouldn't be an issue.

Attorney Tousignant said the board could consider, that if they had a 3/4 " shut off in place and Sartorelli wanted a 1" shut off you could remove the 3/4" and replace it with a 1" shut off, and he would be responsible for the cost.

Sartorelli then said that according to statements earlier in the meeting, if the premise is more than 200 ft from the main, he can install a well and a septic tank. The board agreed, that is how the ordinance reads. Sartorelli then said he will do that then.

Archocosky noted that he felt the city should investigate the issue of amending the ordinance and totally eliminating wells and septic tanks in the city limits.

Archocosky also pointed out that according to the ordinance a water tap is \$500. If the board wishes to change that fee, they would have to amend the ordinance.

A request was previously tabled for Larry Puckett to keep his storage shed on city property, as he has been mowing the property for years. Archocosky said he doesn't have a problem with the shed on the property, but felt the Attorney should draft a lease agreement stating that if a situation arises and the shed needs to be removed, it will be done so immediately and at Puckett's expense. (Puckett would also carry his own insurance on the shed)

**LARRY  
PUCKETT  
SHED ON  
CITY  
PROPERTY**

Coates moved with Thompson supporting to follow the Manager's recommendation and have the City Attorney draft a lease agreement with Mr. Puckett as outlined above.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill & Angie Todey’s house on Ice Lake Road, sold to new owners. While doing a title search, it was discovered that the property was deeded to the city from the State of Michigan along with other properties in the same area.

**ANGIE  
TODEY’S  
PROPERTY  
AT ICE LAKE**

After some discussion, Coates moved with Thompson supporting to convey a Quit Claim Deed to the buyers of the property for Todey’s house along with Mrs. Bernard Tousignant’s property.

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

Correspondence was received from Bates Township Attorney Donn Atanasoff in regards to the increase in rates for the water agreement with the city.

**BATES  
TOWNSHIP  
WATER  
AGREEMENT**

Coates suggested that since it doesn’t cost the city anything to maintain their system, perhaps the rate could just be adjusted by the cost of living index.

After some discussion, Coates moved with Thompson supporting to stay with the original agreement and have Attorney Tousignant amend the agreement to read “rate increases based upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI)”.

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

Thompson moved with Coates supporting to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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**Peggy Shamion, CMC  
City Clerk**