

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2005
5:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Legion Room of the Iron River City Hall, with Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom presiding.

Members present included Councilmen Ray Coates, Virgil Thompson, Roger Zanon, Tom Beber (5:25 pm), Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom, City Manager John Archocosky, City Attorney Mark Tousignant (5:10 pm) and City Clerk Peggy Shamion.

Mike Gatzow, Jere Fritsche, Wayne Wales, Craig Richardson, Ben Smith, and Mr.& Mrs. Mike Rucinski also attended the meeting.

Coates moved with Thompson supporting to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVE
AGENDA**

Minutes of the Special city meeting of 3-23-05 and the Workshop meeting of 4-12-05 were approved on a motion from Thompson with Coates supporting. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**APPROVE
MINUTES**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayne Wales was present and wanted to know what the status was regarding his billboard sign on city property. He is concerned as he can't rent or sell his sign until the issue gets resolved, and is loosing \$200/month because of it.

**WAYNE
WALES SIGN**

Mayor Soderbloom told Wales that the board had a meeting and will give him more information under New Business on the agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Soderbloom requested that 7 (h) City Manager Activity Report/Pending Issue List be added under Reports (b) for further clarification; and (k) Police Chief correspondence regarding Apple Blossom Trail be discussed separately.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Beber Passed

Archocosky reported that Chief Goriesky has asked for assistance for from the DNR for patrolling the Apple Blossom Trail due to a problem with a few individuals with motorized vehicles.

The initial response from the DNR is that they were willing to assist the city.

Coates moved with Thompson supporting to approve the Consent Agenda items a-g & i-k which consisted of Iron County Planning

Commission minutes of March 21, 2005, Iron River Watershed minutes of March 7, 2005, Stambaugh Housing Commission minutes of March 8, 2005, Iron River Housing Commission minutes of March 1, 2005, Iron River Police Dept. monthly report for March 2005 & the DPW March monthly report, Iron River Building Authority meeting minutes of March 23, 2005, Finance Audit Committee packets approved from March 23, & April 12, 2005 and correspondence from Police Chief Goriesky regarding enforcement/patrolling the Apple Blossom Trail. (h) City Manager Activity Report/Pending Issue List is removed from the list and will be discussed individually.
Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Beber Motion carried.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

REPORTS

The City Manager's Activity report was discussed first. Archocosky pointed out that with the MEDC Grant for the Lalley Road Sewer Project he, STS Consultants and MDOT are trying to consolidated three sources of funding. The MDOT funding is not compatible with MEDC, so now they have to treat the project as two different ones.

REPORTS

The original price that was budgeted to MEDC was 18% of the construction cost and STS Consultants have agreed to drop their fee to 14%.

The city is not allowed to execute any contracts until they get approval from MEDC (the final draft). As soon as that is received, the city needs to proceed immediately due to a completion deadline of this summer.

Archocosky recommended the board authorize signing of documents for the project.

Coates moved with Zanon supporting to authorize the Mayor to sign all necessary MEDC documents after we get official notification.
Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 – Beber Motion passed.

**MOTION TO
SIGN MEDC
DOCUMENTS
WHEN
RECEIVED**

Coates moved with Soderbloom supporting to approve the Manager's Report. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zanon moved with Coates supporting to approve the March 2005 Legal Report. All were in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCIALS

Beber entered the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

March 2005 financials were approved on a motion offered by Zanon and Coates supporting.
Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**FINANCIALS
APPROVED**

OLD BUSINESS

A letter was received from Claudia Magnet regarding the Ice Lake MIFOIL and encouraging board members to attend an upcoming meeting. Coates said he plans on attending.

Budget amendments were approved as outlined on a motion from Beber with Soderbloom supporting.

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

**BUDGET
AMEND-
MENTS
APPROVED**

NEW BUSINESS

Archocosky reported that the city has been selected for funding for the Cool Cities Blueprints for Michigan Downtowns Program. This was a planning grant of which the city would pay half and they pay half. They hire a consultant which comes into town and tours the downtown areas of both Stambaugh and Iron River along with the residential areas. Our commitment would be \$15,000.

**COOL CITIES
BLUEPRINTS
RESOLTN**

Beber moved with Coates supporting to authorize a resolution to commit \$15,000 for the funding portion of the Cool Cities Blueprints Program.

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

Signs were discussed next. Attorney Tousignant pointed out that the problem at hand is that there are four signs and two of them are under different circumstances where people pay an annual fee and some don't pay anything. Tousignant stated that the problem is that you have to treat everyone the same. You have to have a policy in place.

**SIGN
DISCUSSION**

Beber noted that two of the signs are non profit organizations; one is for a museum and one is for a church.

Tousignant said that you can develop a policy in which you can identify different classifications. Once the city develops a policy they must follow it.

Wayne Wales said he wants to keep the sign on city property.

Attorney Tousignant suggested he focus time on the issue and investigate, get impute from board members, and report back to the board in a week or so. He will have a proposed policy for review by the end of the week.

Wales is asking the board to give Northland Service a ground lease for approximately 10 years, so he can sell his sign to them.

The board agreed that the city not send an invoice to Wales for renewal (April) yet.

The board agreed to move 11 (h) Mike Rucinski's request for building a garage on the corner of Division & Sunrise, up next.

If Rucinski's purchase a house located on the corner of Division & Sunrise, they would like to build a garage on the alley right a way. There is an alley that runs parallel to Division St. behind the lots located on the south side of Division St. and then turns north and goes back up to Division St.

**DIVISION ST.
& SUNRISE
AVE.
ABANDONM
ENT OF
ALLEY**

Tousignant told the board that if they want to consider abandoning this property, (if city sells it, they have to put it out on bids) consider abandoning the entire alley. (subject to a review by the city DPW Dept., other utilities, or expansion of the alley)

Archocosky pointed out that another issue is to check with other people in that plat that have access to the back of their lot without driving through the front.

Craig Richardson, neighbor on Division St., commented that there is a telephone line located in the alley.

Tousignant will explore the utility issues in the area and Archocosky will report the findings back to Rucinski's by the end of next week.

Kevin Caroen leases the old Stambaugh Fire Hall. Attorney Tousignant said the city can lease property but they should have an agreement that is valid. He pointed out that the taxing units must receive their share of property taxes. The city will have to formalize the agreement with Mr. Caroen.

**KEVIN
CAROEN
LEASING
FIRE HALL**

The board agreed to have Attorney Tousignant look into the agreement issue and offer them a first option to buy, should the city decide to sell the property.

Mayor Soderbloom told the board that she brought the issue up to the DDA and they were very favorable to having a 5 year consolidation celebration. They suggested having the celebration on a separate weekend than the Rodeo or 4th of July.

**CONSOLIDA
TION
CELEBRA
TION**

Archocosky suggested combining the celebration with the "Market Days".

Coates moved Beber supporting to allocate \$1,000 towards a 5 year celebration for consolidation. (Mayor & Mgr will get a committee together)

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

Archocosky informed the board that one of the projects on file with Rural Development for \$1.76 million (former Mineral Hills Water Project) of which was a \$400,000 grant request. With that, the rates would remain the same.

**MH WATER
PROJECT**

Manager Archocosky received a call from Duane Reid of Rural Development informing us that loan money only is available and to consider accepting that with a decrease in the interest rate from 4.5 to 4.25. Archocosky consulted with STS Consultants (who compiled a spreadsheet which is enclosed). After all calculations, the city would save about \$3,600/yr. and Mike Gatzow felt it wouldn't be feasible for the city to accept the offer.

**MINERAL
HILLS
WATER
PROJECT**

Duane Reid did comment that the grant money may not be available just because of the federal budget cuts.

Manager Archocosky recommends the city not proceed at this time.

With that, Zanon moved with Coates supporting not to proceed at this time with the loan only offer from Rural Development and to continue with the loan/grant application.

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

A Budget Hearing was set for 4:45 p.m. on May 18, 2005.

CellularOne is interested in renting space on the former Stambaugh Water Tank. Manager Archocosky has negotiated a price of \$1350/month.

**CELLULAR
ONE
RENTING
SPACE ON
STMBO
WATER
TANK**

Coates moved with Zanon supporting to execute agreement with authorization for the Mayor to sign with CellularOne for leasing space on the Stambaugh Water Tank.

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

According to the DEQ Consent Order the city will include an inflation adjustment in the 2005-2006 budget.

**DEQ INFLA-
TION ADJMT**

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Beber asked that a few boards on the Apple Blossom Trail be repaired. Archocosky will check into it.

**APPLE
BLOSSOM
TRAIL**

Wayne Wales of the Iron County Road Commission suggested working something out between the City and the Road Commission to have them sweep the blacktop on the trail, as they have a small piece of equipment.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Peggy Shamion, CMC
City Clerk