

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2005
11:00 A.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Iron River City Hall, with Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom presiding.

Members present included Ed Marcell, Tom Beber, Ray Coates, Roger Zanon, Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom, City Manager John Archocosky and City Clerk Peggy Shamion.

Others attending included Julie Melchiori, Jim Gibula and a room full of Veterans.

The first item addressed on the agenda was the EDC requesting the use of space on the 3rd floor of City Hall. Jim Gibula of the EDC explained that they have been working with Global Response to construct a Call Center. The EDC acquired the Republic Bank building to house the original 30 employees for the Call Center. The state awarded a contract for the DNR and the subcontractor (Global Response) qualify for the award. Now an additional 50 jobs will be added to the original 30 for a total of 80 jobs which they are committed to. That became a problem for space. Employees need to be in place to answer phones before April 1, 2006 and major renovations need to be done to the Republic Bank building, which cannot be completed by April 1. One concern is that if things aren't in place, the company may go elsewhere. The EDC would only need the space temporarily for approximately 8 months.

**EDC
TEMPORARY
USE OF
THE ATTIC**

Zanon commented that he was not in favor of it and questioned the legality of leasing city space to a private company. Archocosky explained that he spoke to the City Attorney and noted that the city presently leases to Kevin Caroen, which isn't a problem.

Julie Melchiori interim EDC Director stated that they had looked at several different locations and they kept coming back to City Hall. It meets the barrier free needs and it's just the most logical place.

Coates remarked that anytime a company can hire a large number of people in the city, the city should do what they can to help them out.

Al Greig wanted to know how long the contract was for and if any kind of a background check was done on the company.

Jim Gibula said the contract is for a total of 5 years; and the company has been in business for 30 years with clients such as Hershey's, Crate & Barrel and Time Magazine.

Coates moved with Soderbloom supporting to allow the EDC to proceed to use the upstairs in City Hall (Attic) on a temporary basis (1 yr) and to proceed with the plan for the Call Center contingent on the attorney's review and if it's legal, proceed and if there is a problem then the board will need to discuss it again.

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

The Iron County Office space in City Hall was discussed next. Mayor Soderbloom opened the meeting and read a statement that she prepared (see attached). After the statement, Mayor Soderbloom made a motion that the County of Iron and City of Iron River will share the lower level Conference Room – all parties accessing from the hallway entrance. All parties will schedule with the Iron River City Clerk's Office, a calendar of needs with notification of unexpected meetings as they come up. County of Iron will make Conference Room available no later than January 1, 2006. The above shared use to be reviewed by both parties between 12/15/06 & 12/31/06; no later than 12/31/06. Beber supporting the motion.

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

When Iron County Board Member George Treado was asked what the County Board thinks of the issue, he responded, "It's the city's problem".

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Peggy Shamion, CMC
City Clerk