

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006
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 Roger Zanon, Tom Beber, Ray Coates, Ed Marcell, Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom, City Manager John Archocosky, City Attorney Mark Tousignant and City Clerk Peggy Shamion.

Others in attendance included Craig Richardson, Jere Fritsche, Rosalie King, Suzanne Johnson, Diane Rostagno, Ron Basso and Rex Angeli.

Amendments to the agenda included under New Business (o) Attorney's compensation. With that, Beber moved with Zanon supporting to approve the amended agenda. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVE
AGENDA**

Coates moved with Marcell supporting to approve the minutes of the regular city meeting held on December 21, 2005. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**APPROVE
MINUTES**

There was no Public Comment at this time.

Diane Rostagno, City Auditor gave a brief review of the 2004-2005 audit. She said the city general fund has a fund equity of \$633,174 which would equate to a four month operating reserve.

**2004-2005
AUDIT**

Major Street Fund has a fund equity of \$387,876 and is also in good shape.

All the other funds including Local St. Fund have a total fund equity of \$234,239.

Rostagno reported that there were a couple of areas that went over budget but all in all the city is in good shape and the staff did an outstanding job.

Beber moved with Coates supporting to accept the 2004-2005 audit.
Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Zanon asked that (m) Finance Audit Committee packet be omitted from the Consent Agenda and added to 9 (d).

Beber moved with Marcell supporting to accept the Consent Agenda with the removal of the Finance packet.

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

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

FINANCIALS

Coates moved with Beber supporting to receive and file the December 2005 financials as presented.

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

FINANCIALS

Coates moved with Beber supporting to approve a \$150 ad for the All School Reunion booklet.

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

**ALL
SCHOOL
REUNION AD**

Coates moved with Zanon supporting to purchase a \$100 membership to the Caspian Athletic Association.

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

**CASPIAN
ATHLETIC
ASSOC.
MEMBER-
SHIP**

Beber moved with Marcell supporting to approve an agreement with Basso & Basso for lobbyist services between the City and the State of Michigan for the Cloverland Hotel.

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

**BASSO &
BASSO
CONTRACT**

REPORTS

Attorney Tousignant addressed the dilemma of the Hebert property in which the city has undivided interest where their salt bins are located. The city has been waiting for Hebert's to do a survey, which has not happened yet. Tousignant recommended that he put together a description that would "carve out" the city salt bins using the railroad right-of-way. The city could obtain a Quit Claim Deed from Hebert.

**CITY SALT
BIN
PROPERTY
NORTH OF
HEBERT
CONSTR.**

The other part to the transaction is that the city would Quit Claim their interest in the remaining part of the 40 to Hebert in exchange for Hebert conveying their interest in the sliver of land lying east of River and North of U.S. 2 (Property where the Time & Temp Sign is located).

Soderbloom moved with Coates supporting to approve the above recommendation of the City Attorney regarding the Quit Claim Deed to Hebert and trade of property.

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

There was no Old Business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Zanon nominated Ray Coates as Deputy Mayor and Beber supported the motion.

**APPOINT
DEPUTY
MAYOR**

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1-Coates Motion carried.

Coates moved with Zanon supporting to change the time of the city meetings to 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of every month for a six month trial basis. (February – July)

**CITY
MEETING
TIME
CHANGED**

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

Coates moved with Marcell supporting to approve a motion that city funds be deposited only with depositories that are federally insured.

**DEPOSIT-
ORIES**

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

A liquor license request by the Iron County Community Hospital was approved on a motion from Coates with Soderbloom supporting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**LIQUOR
LICENSE**

Manager Archocosky informed the board that he has spoken to City Assessor Jeff Sabotta and he has resigned his position. The position has been advertised and we are receiving a few applicants. No deadline has been set. Sabotta also resubmitted a proposal to continue in the same capacity as the City Assessor. Archocosky has some concerns regarding the time frame that Sabotta will be gone (Feb & Mar) and the Board of Review also takes place then. The Assessor does not have to be present, and Sabotta has offered to make himself available during this time.

**CITY
ASSESSOR
POSITION**

Archocosky recommended establishing an hourly rate with Sabotta for his services and see how it works out. Some board members were concerned about Sabotta not having access to the information when questions arise.

Coates moved with Soderbloom supporting to allow Manager Archocosky to speak to Sabotta about working on an hourly rate temporary while he is away and continue to advertise for the position.

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

Jim Schram was reappointed to the WIC Fire Board for another term on a motion from Coates with Beber supporting.

**WIC FIRE
BOARD
REAPPNTMT**

Roll Call: Ayes: 3 Nays: 2 – Marcell & Soderbloom Motion carried. (ask Schram to provide city with copies of minutes and financials)

Recommendations have been received from the DDA for reappointment and new appointments to the DDA.

Coates moved with Marcell supporting to reappoint Terry Tarsi, Mark Saigh and Ralph Commenator to the DDA for another term.

**DDA
REAPPOINT
MENTS**

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

Alfred Perlongo and Don Bastianello were appointed to the DDA to fill the vacancies of Bob Busakowski and Joe Ruzzicone, on a motion from Marcell with Zanon supporting.

**DDA
APPOINT-
MENTS**

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

Archocosky explained to the board that about a year ago the city purchased the old State Police Tower with the intentions of moving the equipment from the old city tower to the new State Police Tower, because it is a much better facility than the old tower. There isn't any city equipment on the State Police Tower but there are a couple of units that use the tower presently. He suggested establishing a rental agreement for use of the tower and development a plan.

**STATE
POLICE
TOWER**

Mayor Soderbloom appointed Coates, Zanon, Manager Archocosky and Attorney Tousignant to a committee to come up with a rate structure for the State Police Tower.

Ron Basso gave an update on the Cloverland Hotel property. A Land Bank Fast Track Authority is interested in helping to demolish the Cloverland.

**RON BASSO
LOBBYING
CONTRACT
FOR
CLOVER-
LAND
HOTEL**

Mr. Basso works with people in Lansing and local officials to demolish the Cloverland. He is requesting that the city hire him as a lobbyist for the Cloverland Hotel.

Zanon commented that he would like to see Mr. Basso's bills shared with the DDA.

Coates moved to approve the lobby agreement for Cloverland Hotel with Ron Basso (hopefully the DDA will consider paying half). Zanon supported the motion.

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

Zanon moved to request the DDA to share 50/50 in the cost of Ron Basso's lobbyist bills. Coates supported the motion.

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

The MML Legislative Conference will take place on March 22 in Lansing. Board members are urged to get their registrations in to the City Clerk so arrangements can be made.

**MML
CONFER-
ENCE**

The city has received a USDA Rural Development grant for \$30,000 for a new police car and some radio equipment.

**POLICE
GRANT
\$30,000**

Archocosky informed the board that the parcel of property that Mr. Ralph Schneider was interested in purchasing has already been advertised. The minimum amount due was \$1,000 and no bids were received. The property is next to property that he already owns.

**SELL
PROPERTY
TO R.
SCHNEIDER
IN HILLTOP
ADD**

Coates moved to go along with the Manager's recommendation and sell the parcel of property to Ralph Schneider for \$500 in the Greiling Addition in Hilltop, with him paying all fees.

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

Beber moved with Coates supporting to table any discussion on a Brownfield Authority for review until the next meeting.

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

**BROWN-
FIELD
AUTHORITY**

Zanon wanted to discuss City Attorney fees as the attorney has not received an increase in pay since 2000.

**INCREASE
ATTORNEY
FEES**

Zanon moved with Coates supporting to increase the attorney fees from \$90 to \$125/hr.

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

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Beber asked if a street light could be installed at the intersection of Lalley Rd and Ice Lake.

Coates moved with Zanon supporting to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Peggy Shamion, CMC
City Clerk**