

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 21, 2008
2:15 P.M.
MINUTES**

Mayor Charlotte Soderbloom called the Meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Edward Marcell, Ray Coates, Roger Zanon and Soderbloom.
Absent: Thomas Beber (out of town).

Also present: City Manager John Archocosky, City Attorney Mark Tousignant and City Clerk Kathy Anderson.

Public in attendance: Ben Smith, Thomas Angeli, Dennis Powell, Rosalie King, Casey Rose, Craig Richardson, Adam Steinbrecher, Terry Tarsi and Steve Polich.

Amendments to the agenda: 9. (b) Report on Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting held on 5-19-08; 11. (k) MML Region 7 Annual Meeting and Seminar; 11. (l) Homer Location Park.
Coates moved to approve the agenda as amended. Zanon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

APP
AGENDA

Zanon moved to accept the following Iron River City Council Minutes:

- April 22, 2008 Workshop-Utility rate review
- April 23, 2008 Regular Meeting

Coates seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ACC IRCC
MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ben Smith questioned whether the sewer rate increase approved by the Council on April 23, 2008 was related to the recent West Iron County Sewer Authority (WICSA) bond publication. (Agenda item 11. h). Archocosky stated this was not related and at this time Mayor Soderbloom referred the question to WICSA legal counsel, Steve Polich.

WICSA
PRESENTA-
TION

WICSA is requesting members of the Authority amend the existing agreement to extend five (5) years. Upgrades to the facility are needed outside the normal scope of maintenance. WICSA is attempting to acquire State Revolving Loan Funding (SRF) for improvements. Smith asked what will happen if the other members (City of Caspian, City of Gaastra and Iron River Township) do not agree to the proposal. Polich stated the rates will increase.

Marcell moved to amend the existing agreement with WICSA to extend five (5) years to 2029, subject to other members signing, and authorize Mayor Soderbloom to endorse. Coates seconded.

CONDITON-
AL WICSA
AGREE-
MENT

Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Zanon, Coates, Marcell, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Coates moved to receive and file the Consent Agenda. Marcell seconded.
Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Zanon, Marcell, Coates, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

ACC
CONSENT
AGENDA

FINANCIALS

Coates moved to accept the April 2008 Financials. Zanon seconded.
Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Marcell, Zanon, Coates, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

ACC 08
FINANCIALS

Marcell moved to accept the April 2008 Check Register. Coates seconded.
Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Zanon, Coates, Marcell, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

ACC 08 CK
REGISTER

REPORTS

The Attorney report was reviewed. Zanon moved to accept the Attorney Report.
Coates seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ACC ATT
REPORT

Soderbloom reported the DDA has reinstated the sidewalk policy for the DDA district.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Revisions to the Personnel Policy have been made and were reviewed by the Council on January 17, 2008. Tousignant recommended adoption of this policy.
Coates moved to adopt the Personnel Policy. Marcell seconded.
Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Zanon, Marcell, Coates, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

ADOPT
PERSONNEL
POLICY

Job descriptions, retirement options and fringe benefits packages for new hires are not yet complete and will have to be developed.

NEW BUSINESS

Coates moved to approve payment to STS for project #10272 in the amount of \$5,707.00 for North District Water System Improvements, fifth draw. Zanon seconded.
Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Marcell, Zanon, Coates, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

APPROVE
PYMT STS
NORTH
WATER
PROJECT

Julie Melchiori, County MSU Extension director has requested permission to use the parking lot on US2 between 1st and 2nd Avenues to hold a weekly Farmer's Market, scheduled to begin on Thursday, June 12, 2008 and continue through the fall growing season.

Coates moved to approve a request from MSU Extension to use the parking lot to hold a weekly Farmer's Market. Zanon seconded.
Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Marcell, Zanon, Coates, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

APP
PARKING
LOT USE
FARMERS
MARKET

A request to use Bachman Park has been received from Iron County Pullers Association, Inc.

Zanon moved to approve a request from Iron County Pullers Association, Inc. to use Bachman Park on June 15, 2008 for the 2008 Father's Day Antique Auto Show. Coates seconded.

APP USE OF
BACHMAN
FATHERS
DAY

Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Marcell, Coates, Zanon, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.

Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

The 2008-2009 City Budget was approved on a motion from Marcell. Coates seconded.

APP 08-09
BUDGET

Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Zanon, Coates, Marcell, Zanon. Nays: 0.

Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

Zanon moved to approve a Resolution requested by the City of Iron River Hospital Finance Authority to issue bonds to the ICCH for improvements to the existing facility located at 1400 West Ice Lake Road, not to exceed \$24,000,000. (See attached). Coates supported.

APP
RESOLU-
TION ICCH
BONDS

Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Marcell, Coates, Zanon, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.

Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

Requests to purchase vacant city lots have been received from four (4) interested parties. Archocosky recommended advertising these parcels for sale.

APP SALE
OF CITY
PROPERTY

Zanon moved and Coates seconded to follow the manager's recommendation and advertise for sale the following parcels:

- 042-724-004-00 IRC-24 (204B) Sec 24 T43N R35W S ½ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ Except plat of Spies location & 204C & 204D;
- 054-204-007-00 Iron River Bus. Men's Assoc. Lot 7 Blk 4;
- 054-412-003-00 IRC-B18 3 12 Second Park Add to Vill of Iron River Lot 3 Blk 12;
- 054-412-004-00 IRC-B18 4&5 12 Second Park Add to Vill of Iron River Lots 4-5 Blk 12.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Marcell, Coates, Zanon, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.

Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

Tousignant provided a proposal for the Council to review whereas the City would advertise for licensed real estate brokers to assist in the marketing and sale of its surplus real estate. A meeting of the Property Committee will have to be scheduled to formulate a list of properties.

REVIEW
REAL
ESTATE
PROPOSAL
ASSISIT
SALE OF
CITY
PROPERTY

The Flag Day Celebration has been scheduled to take place at the Veteran's Memorial on Saturday, June 14, 2008 between the hours of 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The WICSA agenda item was addressed and discussed during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. (See above).

Highway US2 conversion was discussed. Archocosky indicated that discussions have been held between the City, MDOT and STS regarding the potential conversion of traffic lanes on US2. Consideration has been given to reducing the number of lanes through town from four (4) to three (3). Archocosky highlighted the following for the Council and the public in attendance.

- The purpose for the three lane section will be to improve safety and "calm" traffic on US2 through Iron River.

- The conversion, which will take place prior to Labor Day 2008, will be a three year trial and will remain in effect for a minimum of one year.
- The existing curb line will not change during the trial and the conversion will be done with pavement markings, signage and signal modifications.
- The three lane section will begin just west of 9th Avenue, and end just east of the Riverside Plaza.
- MDOT will fund the necessary changes to convert US2 to a three lane and also fund a reversion of US2 back to a four lane section upon written notice from the City Council during the three year trial period.
- MDOT reserves the right to convert US2 back to a four lane section after written notice is given to the City Council.
- MDOT will compare before and after accident and delay data and report findings to the City Manager on an annual basis during the three year trial period.
- If the City Council decides to discontinue the three lane trial and revert back to a four lane section for US2 and notifies MDOT prior to May 1, MDOT will make the reversion before Labor Day of the same year.
- At the end of the three year trial period, the trial will be complete.
- Although any input from the city would be considered, once the trial is complete, future lane configuration or cross section changes for US2 through Iron River would be the responsibility of MDOT.
- The City and MDOT will work together regarding any future streetscape amenities, visual enhancements, access management, bicycle lanes and travel lane configuration.

CONVERT
US2 TO 3
LANES

Archocosky indicated that at this time Police Chief Goriesky did not express any objections to the study however, Archocosky will meet with the Chief to further explore any concerns.

Coates moved to follow the Manager's recommendation to convert Highway US2 as stated above. Marcell seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A Class Action Suit has been filed by all employees of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), signed by Dennis Powell. The grievance states the City changed dental benefit fiscal year dates without giving prior notice to employees causing financial burden to City employed AFSCME members. After investigation and review by Manager Archocosky he denied the grievance. Not satisfied with the Manager's decision the grievant (Dennis Powell) appealed the Manager's decision to the City Council.

AFSCME
GRIEVANCE

Zanon moved to agree with the manager's decision to deny the appeal however if the Union wanted to extend the time frame for the process, the council would agree to a thirty (30) day written extension from the Union so the matter could be further investigated. Coates supported.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Marcell, Coates, Zanon, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.

Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

Michigan Municipal League (MML) will hold its Region 7 Annual Meeting and Seminar at the Best Western Lakeside Inn in Baraga on June 4-6, 2008.

APP
ATTEND-
ANCE MML

Coates moved to approve attendance to the MML Region 7 Annual Meeting and Seminar for City officials. Marcell seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Zanon, Marcell, Coates, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

Marcell has been approached by residents who would like to build a backstop at the park in the Homer location, provided the City provide the materials.

**HOMER
LOCATION
PARK**

Coates moved that Marcell advise the individuals to submit a cost estimate for Council review. Zanon seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: 4: Marcell, Zanon, Coates, Soderbloom. Nays: 0.
Absent: Beber. Motion carried.

Marcell moved to adjourn at 3:43 p.m. Zanon seconded. All were in favor.
Motion carried.

Kathy L. Anderson, City Clerk