

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
2 PM
MINUTES**

Mayor Roger Zanon called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m., in the Council Chambers at the Iron River City Hall.

Roll Call: Edward Marcell, Ray Coates, Thomas Beber, Michael Brozak and Zanon.

Absent: None.

Also present: Manager John Archocosky, Attorney Mark Tousignant and Deputy Clerk Rachel Andreski.

Public in Attendance: Rosalie King, Jere Fritsche, Julie Melchori, Bill Leonoff, Craig Richardson, and Reporters Allyce Westphal (IC Reporter), Wendy Shimun (WIKB), Ben Smith (Iron County Doings).

Amendment to Agenda included: **New Business:** 10. a) Jim Quayle Cornerstone Business Group Personal Property Abatement (Mr. Quayle requested to remove him at this time).

Coates moved to approve agenda as amended. Brozak seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Coates moved to accept Iron River City Council Minutes of April 15, 2009, and Special Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2009. Marcell seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Iron County Commissioner Rosalie King gave an update on the re-location of the Central Dispatch Unit to the basement, Camp Ottawa closure, Gogebic County Enhanced E-911 meeting, Pentoga Park (planning commission working aggressively to move the boat landing from the present location to the Park where a boat washing station will be available to help control the invasive species), and the Economic Development Corp (EDC) came to the County Board looking for financial support for the Economic Developer (ED).

Bill Leonoff, Chairman for the Finance Committee of the EDC, stated that the ED is being funded on an 80 percent 20 percent split between Michigan State University Extension and the local people. That contract is the result of a pilot program that MSU had initiated almost three years ago, and is coming to an end in September, so the EDC is looking for a way to continue the services of an ED after that date. In order to continue the agreement, MSU will be looking to the local people to pick up more of the local match. The County Board decided to propose a three way funding split (33 percent by the County, 33 percent by the EDC, and the remaining 33 percent by the local units of government by contribution). The County board is leaning towards \$2 per capita and is proposing the Council to consider in the future funding the City's share of that percentage. Ben Smith commented the Detroit Free Press had an item about the cost of enticing businesses to come to the State of Michigan, and the cost of enticing one job was approximately \$50,000. His question to the EDC and the Chamber is it the same for Iron County? Leonoff replied with the various successes the EDC has had over the past three years and stressed the need for an ED to field calls from potential businesses. King said we need to move forward with this for ourselves because the State and the Federal Government won't do it for us.

City Attorney Mark Tousignant responded that based on history, the City won't have a problem paying the \$2 per capita contribution and asked if the County is going to pitch the same proposal to

the Township's and all the other municipality's in the County as the Township's benefit even more so than the City's do.

Leonoff responded that there is someone from every unit of government that is working at the Global Response North Call Center. It would be difficult to argue that there has not been a benefit generally for Iron County.

Archocosky noted that Director Julie Melchori has done a wonderful job and countless hours have been spent on grant applications and the like, but if the City had to hire a private consultant in that industry, not an engineer, but someone to provide those services to the City, you can expect to pay \$75-100 per hour. How long does it take to make up \$2 per capita which is, in this town, \$6,600-\$6,700? The City has had tremendous benefits from the ED, and he stated as the manager, he thinks it's one of the best investments the City can make in outside services.

Zanon asked if that number of \$2 per capita is pretty accurate at this time. Leonoff responded that they figured 13,000 people and multiply that by \$2 per capita and that's \$26,000 and that's how the number came to be.

Coates moved to go on record to support the EDC director at \$2 per capita. Marcell seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Brozak, Beber, Marcell, Coates, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Brozak moved; Beber seconded, to receive and file the Consent Agenda which included the following:

- a) 04-23-09 WICSA Packet
- b) 05-18-09 WICSA Packet
- c) 03-16-09 DDA Minutes
- d) 04-20-09 DDA Minutes
- e) April 09 DDA/TIF Report
- f) 03-10-09 Iron River Housing Commission Minutes
- g) 03-26-09 Iron River Housing Commission Minutes
- h) 04-21-09 Iron River Housing Commission Minutes
- i) April 09 IRPD Report
- j) Ordinance Violation Report
- k) 4-20-09 Iron River Building Authority Packet
- l) 03-09-09 Iron County Planning Commission Minutes
- m) 04-20-09 Pending Issue List
- n) 04-20-09 Monthly Activity Report
- o) March 09 ICEDC-Developers Report
- p) 04-29-09 Letter of Salute, Tom Hadley: Zanon read the memo received from the Iron County Sheriff's Office from Deputy Lenny Brezek and requested a copy be sent to Iron River Township.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Coates, Marcell, Beber, Brozak, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Reports

Attorney: Phase I and II of the Environmental portion of the Brownfield are done at the former Central School. Phase III will include the demolition of the warehouse.

Tousignant also recommended the Council consider doing away with civil infractions and install misdemeanors as the City is losing money instead of making it.

Archocosky added that a request has been made by the contractor at Central School that dynamite be used to bring down the chimney and part of the buildings. He checked with Tousignant and the City Police to check the records to prevent the individual from using it. Nothing was found in the ordinance.

Zanon questioned if there would be any danger to the public and Archocosky responded that all precautions necessary are being taken and the person is licensed through the State and insured.

Tousignant noted that this is a subcontractor and it's not necessary to take on the responsibility of getting involved in a direct working relationship.

Brozak moved to accept the Attorney Report. Beber seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Financials

April 09 Check Register: Coates moved to accept. Brozak seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Beber, Marcell, Brozak, Coates, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

April 09 Check Financials: Archocosky noted we are pretty much on target and that we're at 78 percent in total and should end up in good shape.

Brozak moved to accept. Marcell seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Beber, Coates, Marcell, Brozak, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Disc Golf Course: Julie Melchori of the MSU Extension Office presented one of the fastest growing sports, the Disc Golf Course proposal. The DDA and the Iron County Chamber of Commerce wanted this to be one of their projects and located in the DDA district in an area where it's visual to the public, yet in a natural setting. The Chamber area was selected as it's by the river and because of the mining pits, development probably wouldn't happen. A proposal was written, it was accepted and the DDA funded it. Three options were presented (A, B and C) and a slide show and "Fly through Movie" was played. The Tailings was the name selected for the 18 hole golf course that's unique because of the historical value of the area. Maintenance is a minimum, could be funded by donations, sponsorships, DNR Grant, green or membership fees. Would like it to be playable by this summer, but that's an aggressive schedule, however, it can be played with snowshoes in the winter. Next step is to have it surveyed, and Gary Pisoni offered his services.

New Business

Protec Membership: Tabled on a motion from Beber. Coates seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Brozak, Marcell, Coates, Beber, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried

West Side Veterans Sponsorship: A request has been received from the West Side Veteran's Council to sponsor this year's Memorial Day and Fourth of July observances in the amount of \$250. Beber motioned the City contribute \$250. Brozak seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Coates, Marcell, Brozak, Beber, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Property Resolution: Tousignant informed the board a resolution needs to be made to sell the piece of property located on River Avenue by the Cemetery just South of Hunter Road to Brian F. and Kimberly Ann Lawson. Coates made a motion to accept the resolution to sell the property for \$3,500. Beber seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Brozak, Marcell, Beber, Coates, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Adopt 2009/2010 Budget: Beber made a motion to adopt the 2009/2010 Budget. Coates seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Brozak, Marcell, Coates, Beber, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

MML Region 7 Seminar: Regional meeting being held in Calumet. Registration fee is \$25. Beber made a motion to allow anyone who wishes to go to the MML Region 7 Seminar. Coates seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Brozak, Marcell, Coates, Beber, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Wykon Booster Club Sponsorship: Motion by Brozak to continue sponsorship of \$40 to the Wykon Booster Club. Marcell seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Coates, Marcell, Brozak, Zanon. Nays – 0. Abstain – 1: Beber. Motion carried.

Camp Ottawa Resolution: Archocosky commented the potential closing of Camp Ottawa is a tremendous financial asset to our community and losing the jobs would have a tremendous impact. Ron Basso prepared this resolution and asked that we consider approving and passing it. Motion by Beber to adopt the resolution supporting Camp Ottawa. Brozak seconded

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Coates, Marcell, Brozak, Beber, Zanon. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Council Member Comments

Beber thanked the City, the Booster Club, West Iron County Volunteer Fire Department, and all those that helped put together the new playground equipment for the children at Nelson Field.

Brozak asked when the summer workers were going to start and how many. Some have started and there will be three. Archocosky noted that the prison crew has started after concern the City wouldn't be able to obtain them. The City will be sharing them with the City of Caspian.

Beber moved to adjourn at 3:18 p.m. Brozak seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rachel R. Andreski, Deputy Clerk