

**CITY OF IRON RIVER  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Friday, May 29, 2020  
10 AM  
Minutes**

Mayor Dennis Powell called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Anthony Clements, Benjamin Garcia, Ronjo Leonoff and Powell.

Absent: Rodney Dood.

Also present: Attorney Mark Tousignant, Manager David Thayer and Clerk Rachel Andreski.

Public in attendance: Mark Polley, Keith Hamel, Victoria Powell, Christina Victorovich, Adam Holroyd, Alyssa Jawar (TV6 News), Adam Stender (WIKB), Jeremy Johnson (Reporter) and Chief Curtis Bristol.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Keith Hamel of 926 W. Boyington Street said this shouldn't be a "like or not like the guy" situation. He said the City is making a big mistake at this time to get a different manager. He added it will be expensive and it's all because of one person in the DPW that is causing this big stir. He concluded with we are not going to be able to afford this.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Accept Resignation of the City Manager:** Powell asked if there was a figure Thayer would like for compensation including vacation. Thayer said if Powell is looking for a proposition, and the City wishes to purchase leave time which is the City's option to do, he would accept 30 days pay along with benefits. He said his benefits include his MERS contribution, IRA supplement and vehicle allowance. Powell said that sounds reasonable and doesn't see anything wrong with it. Garcia said he is disappointed with the whole situation and at last Wednesday's meeting, it was brought up that our City meetings have been run poorly. Yes, we have a new Mayor, but after five months there is no excuse. He said he is disappointed with the Mayor's conduct of the public comment and little order of our meetings. He added that he didn't sign up for this and Mr. Mayor has been lax. We have been paying Thayer a large sum of money to run our City and it's looked better than it has in a long time. Roads are getting fixed and on schedule and our constituents should be happy. Issues have been brought up to the Council and things brought to the table that go against the Charter. He said an example of this is firing an employee. The Charter instructs we are wrong to get involved. He added he has kept the peace to a point because he's new, but it's not right what has been taking place and have essentially made it that Thayer is not coveted by this Board. Garcia said he has told Thayer he was coveted, but not by the public or the rest of this Board. Garcia feels the City has been growing, and now with the loss of the ICECA, the Covid-19 pandemic which will also affect financing and with all of this we will not have a city manager. Garcia said Thayer is here and he is willing to accept a buyout, but he would rather him stay the 30

days and find his replacement while he is still here. Garcia said we are handing out a large sum of money, why not utilize his services and get something for it.

Clements said he would like specifics when Thayer wrote “given your recent statements” in his resignation letter. Thayer said to read the previous months minutes and that will answer it for you.

Leonoff asked if it is because the Council is asking questions that Thayer hasn’t been asked before. He added he is new and has to ask questions to understand what exactly is going on. He questioned if that is disturbing to Thayer. Leonoff also asked if Thayer was contemplating retirement. Leonoff did explain that he listens and talks to everybody and will talk to every single employee as well. He said he gets different opinions all the time from everybody. Some positives and some negatives. He also said he never had it in his mind to fire anybody and Thayer can leave that one rest. He added Thayer has made his decision and we have to honor that also. Now we must move on to what we have to do.

Powell said it is not unusual when a manager gets fired or resigns, they get full pay and benefits. He asked Thayer if that was common practice. Thayer said yes, it is very common. Powell asked for Tousignants opinion. Tousignant said it is common practice for when higher ups tender their resignation or their services are no longer necessary, they are paid what’s due in the contract and they are done.

Powell moved to accept the resignation of David Thayer and compensate him for 30 days wages, 43.5 hours of personal leave, 282 hours of vacation, June’s MERS contribution, 1<sup>st</sup> Bank IRA supplement and vehicle allowance with the condition he is immediately done with the City. Leonoff seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes–3: Clements, Leonoff and Powell. Nays – 1: Garcia. Motion carried. Absent – 1: Dood.

Powell wished Thayer a good future and thanked him for his service. Thayer said thank you and wished him all the luck as well.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Polley of 1045 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue said that it is a good move on the City’s part to accept Thayer’s resignation and terminate immediately. He did disagree with what Garcia said. He explained he is a lifetime resident and has witnessed people come and go and in the last four years our town has really deteriorated. Polley said he has witnessed City employees smiling again and now it’s going in a positive direction since his letter. It’s an expensive thing to do and a must thing to do to move forward.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Powell adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.



Rachel Andreski, City Clerk