

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2015**

Chairman Tarsi called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M. in the Alfred Perlongo Meeting Room at the West Iron County Fire Hall.

Roll Call: Roger Zanon, Ed Lindwall, Jim Duda, Nora Petrucelli and Tarsi.
Absent: Jim Quayle, Mark Saigh and Ryan Meske
Also Present: Attorney Ron Basso and Interim City Manager Rachel Andreski.

Public in Attendance: Marilyn and Tom Peterson, John Hull and Joe Voellinger (IC Chamber of Commerce).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Zanon moved, with support from Duda, to approve the Agenda as written. All in favor; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Zanon moved to approve the June 15, 2015 and August 17, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. Lindwall seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marilyn Peterson provided a handout in regard to donations to the U.P. Rodeo, Inc. along with questioning a potential conflict of interest with Ron Basso providing legal counsel to the DDA and serving as a Trustee on the Rodeo Board. Peterson also questioned when full membership on the DDA will be accomplished along with minutes from previous meetings be available to the public. She has contacted the Prosecuting Attorney's office in regards to misuse of public funds and has been advised to proceed to a law enforcement agency, which she does not wish to do. Peterson asked Tarsi if there have been unlawful use of public funds for the City of Iron River to make donations of money and use of property for the purpose of financially supporting the U.P. Rodeo, Inc. and other private organizations seeking similar contribution from the public. Tarsi went on record to say that Peterson will have to attend the City of Iron River's Regular Council Meeting to ask that question as the DDA cannot answer that question for the City of Iron River. Tarsi could not answer whether it is a conflict for Basso to participate on both Boards and referred the question to Basso who wished not to comment at this point. Tarsi addressed the membership question with the law stated the Board will be made up of a maximum and minimum of members and the Board falls within the requirement. Peterson stated that the Board is currently short one member. Tarsi explained advertising has been done and there is no interest. Peterson stated Dave of K&D applied and wasn't accepted. Tarsi was not familiar with an application from him.

REPORTS: None.

FINANCIALS

August 2015 Financials: Tarsi reported that he has been working with Andreski to have the \$1,000 be moved to the DDA from the sale of the former Cloverland Lot. Zanon moved, with support from Duda to receive and file the August 2015 Financials.

Roll Call: Ayes-5: Lindwall, Petrucelli, Duda, Zanon and Tarsi. Nays: 0.
Absent: 3-Quayle, Saigh and Meske. Motion carried.

Basso & Basso September Invoice - \$1,500: Duda moved, with support from Zanon, to approve Basso & Basso's September Invoice in the amount of \$1,500.

Roll Call: Ayes-5: Lindwall, Petrucelli, Zanon, Duda and Tarsi. Nays: 0.
Absent: 3-Quayle, Saigh and Meske. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Digital Sign Update: Tarsi reported that he has been in contact with Kris Hughes from Nicolet Sign and Joe Voellinger from the IC Chamber of Commerce regarding the possibility of moving the sign. After discussions with the Michigan Department of Transportation, it appears that with State right-of-way's, the sign cannot move any closer to the highway, as there has to be a 75' buffer from the centerline up to River Avenue. Anything after River Avenue through 9th Avenue, there is no right-of-way and it can be placed anywhere.

No action was taken.

Digital Sign Resolution: Basso has made some changes to the Resolution that was originally presented with the Chamber being the repository of both the computer and gathering information for events that are upcoming. Basso asked the Board if they would like only Iron River events posted seeing as this is a DDA sign, or events from other geographic areas. Tarsi noted that he would like to include west side events. Petrucelli moved to adopt the Digital Sign Resolution as presented. Lindwall seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes-5: Zanon, Duda, Lindwall, Petrucelli and Tarsi. Nays: 0.
Absent: 3-Quayle, Saigh and Meske. Motion carried.

Harvest & Haunt Fall Festival – Chamber of Commerce: Voellinger thanked the volunteers for all of their hard work and to the public for attending. It was a grand event with very good attendance and that every age enjoyed themselves. Planning is already underway for next year and from a financial standpoint, they are in good shape. Monies that were left over will go to Heart and Soles and the possibility of purchasing equipment such as a popcorn and/or cotton candy machine. Peterson questioned how much the City had donated to the event. Tarsi responded the City did not donate. She re-phrased her question as to how much did the DDA donate. Voellinger responded \$1,500 to support the advertising. Tarsi thanked Voellinger and the rest of the Chamber members as well as the volunteers.

The IronLine – Josh Brindle: Josh Brindle provided a projected budget for the upcoming IronLine. Tarsi requested the item be tabled until a full Board is present. Zanon moved, Lindwall supported, to table the IronLine's request until a full Board is present. All in favor; motion carried.

Main Street Update-Webinar: Basso stated that with State funding cutbacks, a representative of the Main Street Program is unable to physically attend the meeting, however, they are offering webinars. Basso requested this item be placed on the next agenda due to technical difficulties. No action was taken.

Main Street Resolution: Basso reported that this Resolution is required for submittal to continue in the Main Street Program as an Associate Level Member. The opportunity is there to move to the Select Level, however, Basso recommends staying as an Associate Level Member

at this time. Zanon moved, with support from Duda to adopt the Main Street Resolution indicating the DDA continues to support the Associate Level membership.

Roll Call: Ayes-5: Lindwall, Petrucelli, Duda, Zanon and Tarsi. Nays: 0.

Absent: 3-Quayle, Saigh and Meske. Motion carried.

Parking Lot Lighting Upgrades: Upgrades to the City's parking lot lights were approved some time ago, however, the project wasn't started. Andreski reported after discussions with Craig Richardson of GEI Consultants, Inc., a revised quote was obtained, which was cheaper than the original by almost \$2,000. No action was taken until an installation cost can be obtained and pictures of what the fixtures will look like.

NEW BUSINESS

Change Meeting Date for November: Due to the 2015 Firearm Deer Season, it was requested to move the Meeting Date for November. It was decided to move the date to November 9, 2015, same time, at the WIC Fire Hall.

Windsor Center Façade Grant Application: The Façade Grant Committee met at the Windsor Center to review their application. The Committee has approved the application and recommends the DDA does as well. Duda moved to approve the Façade Grant Application as presented for the full \$2,500. Lindwall supported.

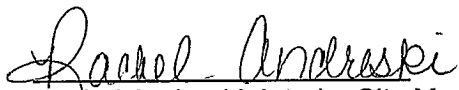
Roll Call: Ayes-5: Zanon, Petrucelli, Lindwall, Duda and Tarsi. Nays: 0.

Absent: 3-Quayle, Saigh and Meske. Motion carried.

Christmas Tree Purchase/Decorating Contest: Basso noted the Village of L'Anse is purchasing Christmas Trees and proving them to area businesses for a decorating contest. No action was taken.

Authority Comments: None.

Adjournment: Zanon moved with support from Lindwall to adjourn at 1:08 p.m. All were in favor; motion-carried.



Rachel Andreski, Interim City Manager/Clerk