

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
SPECIAL MEETING
IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
10:15 AM
Minutes**

Mayor Terry Tarsi called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m., in the Council Chambers at the Iron River City Hall.

Roll Call: Daniel Baumgartner, Rick Commenator, Jere Fritsche, Edward Marcell and Tarsi.
Absent: None.

Also present: Attorney Mark Tousignant, Manager Perry Franzoi, and Clerk Rachel Andreski.

Public in attendance: Richard Anderson, Bill LaRock, Larry Melstrom, Paul VanMinsel, John Cimarelli and Craig Richardson (GEI Consultants).

APPROVE AGENDA: Commenator moved with support from Marcell to amend the agenda by adding under New Business: c) Advertising for a Police Officer. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LaRock asked what the City's policy is on yard restoration for a sewer back-up issue at the neighbor's property. The DPW had to access the sewer manhole and in doing so, had to push the snow banks out of the way damaging his yard. Tousignant responded if it is on his property, he is liable, however, if it is in the City's right-of-way, the City is liable. Tarsi feels it's the Manager's responsibility to decide and being this is the first he's heard of the issue, will meet with LaRock.

Larry Melstrom stated some years ago, there used to be a storm drain to collect the run-off from River Avenue. Currently when it rains or during the spring thaw, the water comes down River Avenue and proceeds down Monroe two to three blocks and reaches a drain there. He requested the City uncover the catch basin on River Avenue. Richard Anderson, former DPW foreman, mentioned that most of those catch basins were tied into the sanitary sewer and had to be separated which deleted many. Fritsche mentioned the DPW made a natural drainage way for the water.

OLD BUSINESS

MDNR 2015 Trust Fund Grant Application – Ice Lake Park Improvements Resolution:

Commenator moved, with support from Baumgartner to adopt the supporting resolution for the MDNR 2015 Trust Fund Grant Application for the Ice Lake Park Improvements.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Fritsche, Marcell, Baumgartner, Commenator and Tarsi. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Street Sweeper Least/Purchase: Since the last meeting Franzoi obtained paperwork from Bell Equipment Company offering a 90 warranty on the unit to cover any component failure and a 3 year warranty on all structural components associated with the welds. Franzoi expressed concerns DPW staff have that the unit, which is a Pelican, picks up a majority of the dirt, but it doesn't clean it totally. The advantage of the Pelican is it has a larger cleaning surface of approximately 4 feet

while the unit currently owned by the City, which is a Johnston, only picks up 2 feet. Tarsi asked if they make a unit that will do what we need it to do. Franzoi stated there is, but a new one costs approximately \$180,000. Tarsi asked if there are companies that will allow us to purchase a new one on a payment plan. Franzoi feels this unit can do the job, but the condition of the streets makes it less desirable and there are purchase plans available, however interest rates are normally high. Bell is also fitting the unit with new tires and will re-do the seal around the cab as there are cracks and temporarily patched.

Tarsi noted that the agreement was leasing the machine for the past few month's totals \$22,000 which we owe weather the City keeps it or not. The remaining balance is \$35,000. John Cimarelli feels that the City should purchase a new unit. Franzoi responded with the DPW staff is requesting another front-end loader and he agrees. The street sweeper is a seasonal item and if the City looks to purchase new equipment, we'd be better off purchasing something that can be utilized year round.

Baumgartner moved to purchase the Pelican street sweeper. Commenator seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Fritsche, Marcell, Commenator, Baumgartner and Tarsi. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments: Two seats are open on the City's Zoning Board of Appeals and two individuals applied. Fritsche moved, with support from Commenator to appoint Robert Byczek, Jr. and Paul VanMinsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Marcell, Commenator, Fritsche and Tarsi. Nays – 1: Baumgartner. Motion carried.

Water/Sewer Rates: Franzoi informed the Council that the commodity charges are not suggested to be adjusted, however, water turn on and off fees and meter tests be increased. Tarsi questioned whether the adjustments are high enough based on the pay of the personnel, fringe benefits, mileage and equipment. Franzoi responded he had calculated it and feels this is adequate.

Commenator moved to adopt the new proposed water/sewer rates with the stipulation that the item placed on the agenda for discussion at the next regular meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Fritsche, Marcell, Baumgartner, Commenator and Tarsi. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Advertising for a Police Officer: Franzoi stated there will be a need to fill a vacancy in the police department for a full-time officer and would like to advertise as soon as possible. Commenator moved to advertise for a full-time police officer. Baumgartner seconded.

All in favor; motion carried.

Adjournment: Commenator moved to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Baumgartner seconded. All in favor; motion carried.



Rachel Andreski, Clerk