

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 10, 2017
2 PM
Minutes**

Mayor Terry Tarsi called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Daniel Baumgartner, Jere Fritsche, Tricia Mercier, Edward Marcell and Tarsi.
Absent: None.

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

Public in attendance: Darren Mercier (arrived 2:15) and Carol Dallavalle (arrived 3:06).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of FY2018 Budget: Thayer stated this year's budget is a continuation of last year's budget, almost dollar for dollar. The taxable value is projected to be approximately \$4,000 less than last year, which is a relief as he felt that amount was going to be higher. Health insurance has increased due to new employees being hired who will be utilizing the insurance. In order to absorb larger increases, Thayer carved out where he could from various cost centers and overall plans for an increase of \$30,000 from last year's General Fund Budget. There is some concern that the City Hall cost center may be understated because of the age of the building. In the Police Department, Chief Bristol would like to change uniforms to a more traditional style which is estimated to be approximately \$3,500. He would also like to purchase a laptop computer with wireless internet connection for the patrol cars. The Department of Public Works will lose a member to retirement July 31, 2017 and Thayer will replace that employee. If additional funds were available, there is more than enough work to hire one more to bring it to a seven (7) person department. Thayer also touched on the MERS Retirement, stating that when an employee retires, the affects aren't felt until the following year, once the actuary is performed.

With the increase in electricity costs, discussions were held on the possibility of the removal of more street lights in the City. Thayer stated the cost to operate one street light per month is approximately \$28. Thayer feels that even though it would be a cost savings measure to remove some, politically it's not feasible.

Community Recreation is a work in progress. Some park equipment needs repair or replacement. Phase I improvements are currently taking place, and Thayer plans to continue making upgrades. State PA 51 Transportation Funds are expected to increase by 23%, therefore, increasing funds available in Major and Local Streets. Tarsi questioned the possibility of abandoning streets. There are certain areas of high traffic that need attention. Thayer is going to identify those areas and prioritize for replacement, however, limited funds are available. The line item "Municipal Streets" is a holding fund to move to Major and Local Streets as the State will not allow funds to be moved once appropriated to the fund per PA 51.

Water and Sewer Funds are in good status and will allow for improvements to each system this year. A complete water study will be conducted this winter. The Motor Pool Fund will have approximately \$250,000 available to replace some worn out equipment or vehicle replacement such as a police car, pick-up truck for the DPW and perhaps a skid steer. There is discussion of trading the newest edition plow truck in the fleet, or selling it outright as there have been numerous issues since the first day it was received.

Capital Improvement Plan – 1st Year (6 Year Plan): Within the next 60 days, Thayer will be working on putting a Capital Improvement Plan at the State's request as part of the RRC Program and City Charter. Thayer requested the Council's input on how they would like to spend the little amount of monies available for things such as a dog park, vehicles, streets, water or sewer projects, etc. He would like Council to tour the City and compile a list.

Move July 19, 2017 to July 12, 2017: Thayer requested the meeting be changed as he will not be available. Marcell moved, Mercier seconded, to move the meeting a week earlier to July 12, 2017. All in favor; Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Dallavalle requested the corner of 4th and Sturgeon be cleaned up as there are trees fallen over, garbage and debris. Thayer will look into it.


COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

After a discussion with the MML Attorney, Thayer was asked to request the Council look in their records of written communications regarding Laura Frizzo.

Fritsche asked for an update on blight, especially junk cars. Andreski stated GAD is in the process of updating the list of junk cars compiled from last year and will send to the new chief when complete.

ADJOURNMENT

Mercier moved to adjourn at 3:36 p.m. Marcell seconded. All in favor; Motion carried.



Rachel Andreski, City Clerk