

**MINUTES
CITY OF NEGAUNEE REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2008**

A Regular meeting of the Negaunee City Council was held on Thursday, January 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Negaunee Senior Center.

Members Present: Mayor Peterson, Council Members Wickstrom, Thomas, Stanaway, Perucco, Gravedoni, and Wills

Members Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Stanaway asked that agenda item #8.3 Washington DC Trip be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

A motion was made by Council Member Gravedoni, supported by Council Member Thomas and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public wished to comment at this time.

PRESENTATION – NEGAUNEE HIGH SCHOOL WRITING FOR TECH CLASS

Mr. Andy Skewis was present to address the Council regarding a project being done by the Writing for Tech Class called “Preserving our Heritage”. He handed out a time line of project goals and stated that he would be reporting to the Council on their progress. He stated that they would be interviewing people that lived in Old Towne.

A motion was made by Council Member Thomas, supported by Council Member Stanaway and unanimously carried to approve support for this project and provide up to \$2,000 for materials, equipment and supplies.

NEGAUNEE/ISHPEMING MULTI-USE TRAIL

On February 1, 2007, the City of Negaunee received a conditional funding commitment from the Michigan Department of Transportation in the amount of \$400,120. This funding is for the construction of the Negaunee-Ishpeming Multi-Use Trail. The trail will connect downtown businesses of the two communities and it is expected the trail will become part of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail system. A separate contract with UPEA in the amount of \$26, 500 provided for engineering design and construction inspection services as well as for the completion of MDOT program submittals for the proposed project.

In order to secure the MDOT conditional funding for this project, and seek bids for the work, it is now necessary for the City of Negaunee (grant recipient) to approve a Resolution committing local match funds and agreeing to maintain the trail during its design life. A Resolution for the Council to consider for this purpose is attached.

A motion was made by Council Member Perucco and supported by Council Member Gravedoni to approve a resolution committing local funds to the project and for a maintenance commitment for the design life of the trail.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – NUMBER OF MEMBERS SERVING ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

At its December 11, 2007 meeting the Negaunee Planning Commission voted to recommend to the City Council a reduction in its membership from 9 to 7 members. Like other City boards and committees, the Planning Commission has had some difficulty obtaining a quorum, necessary to conduct their business.

A motion was made by Council Member Perucco, supported by Council Member Wills and unanimously carried to hold a public hearing at the next regular meeting with the intent of adopting this ordinance amendment.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MERS HYBRID BENEFIT PLAN FOR DIVISION 01 EMPLOYEES HIRED AFTER AUGUST 9, 2007

The City has sought to reduce its costs for providing employee pension benefits by converting from a defined benefit to a defined contribution plan for new employees. Contribution rates for employees covered by this defined benefit plan in 2007 were 23.25% of eligible wages. Under the defined plan the City will contribute 10.00% of base pay and the employee will contribute 3.00% of their base pay.

A motion was made by Council Member Gravedoni, supported by Council Member Thomas and unanimously carried to authorize a contract amendment with Teamsters Local 214 to read “For employees hired after the effective date of this agreement the City will provide a MERS hybrid retirement plan with a City contribution of ten percent (10%) of base wage and a required employee contribution of three percent (3%) of base wages.” And to approve the attached MERS resolution authorizing this new hybrid pension plan.

WASHINGTON DC TRIP – MARCH 3-6

Council Member Stanaway asked that this item be taken off of the Consent Agenda for discussion. He stated that all Council Members were not asked to go on this trip and that in the future he would like to see this item on the regular agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Gravedoni, supported by Council Member Wickstrom and unanimously carried to authorize travel, training, and expenses for the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Manager and Council Member Thomas (as an alternate) to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with federal legislators and various funding agencies on March 4-6.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Thomas, supported by Council Member Wills and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: December 13, 2007 Regular minutes, December 13, 2007 Closed Session Minutes, Claims and Accounts, Revenue/Expenditure Fund Balances, and Senior Center Grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public wished to comment.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council Member Thomas commented on the Heritage Trail committee and their brochure. I stated that if anyone has any ideas for the brochure to represent Negaunee to please let him know.

Mayor Peterson commented on a meeting that took place with a developer regarding land issues in Old Towne.

City Manager Peterson commented on a joint meeting with Ishpeming regarding the North Shore of Teal Lake and stated that the District Library survey would be going out soon.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Thomas commented on Heikki Lunta, the radar runs and the geocache events. He reminded all trails users to be respectful of other people.

Council Member Stanaway commented on the geocache event.

Council Member Perucco commented on trail users being courteous.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Peterson commented on some upcoming Special Meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss a motion was made to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Ann Yoho
Deputy Clerk