

**MINUTES  
CITY OF NEGAUNEE REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Negaunee City Council was held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Negaunee Senior Center.

*Members present:* Mayor Gravedoni, Council Members Dompierre, Haines, Maino, Menhennick, VanStraten and Wills

*Members absent:* None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Dompierre made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, changing the month to "March." Council Member Maino seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. George Sedlacek address the Council regarding the Jackson Park grant, noting that this could assist with financial difficulties by attracting families to the area, which could help the schools' budgets as well. He also asked the council to be positive about the assets the City has.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no comments from the public.

Council Member Dompierre made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-1, Amendment to Codified Ordinances of The City of Negaunee, Part 10, Chapter 1064 and 1066 as amended, changing the second sentence in 1066.03 to begin "Law enforcement officers shall enforce all park rules, and officers shall have the power to order..." The motion was seconded by Council Member Wills, and it passed unanimously.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Wills, Maino, Dompierre, Van Straten, Haines, MenHennick and Mayor Gravedoni

Nays: None.

**STATE OF THE CITY PRESENTATION**

City Manager Gerald Peterson address the Council with a presentation regarding the State of the City, Part II, specifically addressing the water utility, capital investments in this fund, why Negaunee's rates are what they are, a breakdown of expenses, debt and water user profiles. He

encouraged the Council to question and address the water rate structure in the future so that maintenance can be planned and paid for.

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION, JACKSON MINE PARK**

Council Member Wills made a motion to table this item until budget time to ensure there is enough money to provide core services first, and in case the Jackson Park property sells during that time. Council Member Haines seconded the motion, and it passed.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Wills, Maino, VanStraten, Haines and Menhennick.

Nays: Council Member Dompierre and Mayor Gravedoni

The motion passed, 5-2.

**SALE OF CITY PROPERTY, 330 TOBIN STREET, LOT 16**

Council Member Wills made a motion to accept the bid from Chrissy Kostelansky in the amount of \$5,250 and direct the City Attorney to complete closing on the property as soon as the bidder obtains financing. Council Member Haines seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**AWARD OF BID-INSURANCE FOR VARIOUS CITY RISKS**

Council Member Maino made a motion to award the bid to MMRMA in the amount of \$104,336. Council Member Menhennick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MINER'S PARK ENGINEERING SERVICES BID**

Council Member Dompierre made a motion to award the bid to perform Miners Park facility engineering work, as specified, to UPEA, Marquette for \$12,800. Council Member Wills seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Wills made a motion to grant authority to the Planning Commission to direct the site planning improvements to the park. Council Member Maino seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**REQUEST FOR NEGAUNEE CITY COUNCIL TO COMMENCE A SEARCH FOR CITY MANAGER**

Council Member VanStraten made a motion to request the City Council commence their search for a City Manager tonight. Council Member Wills supported the motion, and discussion was had regarding use of MML's services for this, developing a plan for the process and possibly having a

special meeting. After the discussion, Council Member Wills withdrew his support for the motion. Council Member Haines supported the motion.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Maino, VanStraten and Haines

Nays: Council Members Wills, Dompierre and Menhennick and Mayor Gravedoni

The motion was defeated, 3-4.

Council Member Dompierre made a motion for the City Council to set a special meeting date to commence a search for City Manager, and to invite the local MML representative to speak at that meeting at the earliest date the parties are available to meet. Council Member Haines seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **ISHPEMING SANITARY SEWER PROJECT, EASEMENT, LAND ACQUISITION**

Council Member Dompierre made a motion that the City Council authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate and draft documents necessary for route adjustments with the appropriate owners for City Council review and approval, and set march 15 at 6:30 p.m. for a public meeting to review the sanitary sewer route and design decisions. Council Member Maino seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS-BASED SELECTION REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES, CROIX STREET PHASE II**

Council Member Dompierre made a motion to authorize proposals for construction inspection services to be sought for the Croix Street Phase II project using a QBS process. Council Member VanStraten supported the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR IMPLEMENTING A UTILITY-WIDE ENERGY PROGRAM FOR THE NEGAUNEE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT**

Council Member Dompierre made a motion to approve the Resolution for Implementation of Utility-Wide Energy Program. Council Member Menhennick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER RESIGNATION**

Council Member Menhennick made a motion to authorize the City Manager and Police Chief to proceed with the hiring process for an officer to fill this vacant position as soon as possible. Council Member Maino seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The council questioned Police Chief Frusti and discussed whether or not the department could go without filling the position until budget time to avoid any lay-off scenarios. Chief Frusti said he did not believe this would be possible.

### **ORE TO SHORE REQUEST**

Council Member Wills made a motion to provide traditional City assistance with the Ore to Shore Bike race and encourage race organizers to raise funds to help pay for expenses incurred for City support of this regional event. Council Member VanStraten seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **UPDATE ON 521 IRON STREET**

The Council received information, a letter from the building owner and discussed the collapse of this downtown building. Liability issues were discussed, and the City Manager said MMRMA had been contacted regarding the situation. The business owner was asked for a plan within 72 hours and is working toward a solution. An ECI representative answered questions from the Council Members. The Council asked for an update on the situation at its Monday special meeting. No action was taken.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Dompierre, supported by Council Member Maino and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as follows: February 11, 2010 Minutes, Claims and Accounts in the amount of \$498,130.50 (check #30949-#31090), Revenue/Expenditure Reports, Payment to US Army Corps of Engineers, Cliff Street Sanitary Sewer and Street Reconstruction, 4-wheel drive pickup truck for the parks department bids.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Joel Jarvi thanked the Council for saying "Christmas decorations" in its materials, and said he'd like to see similar sentiments in City decorations, rather than Season's Greetings.

Mr. David Johnson reminded the council to stop thinking about enterprise funds as though they are general funds, as they are two different things. He also reminded the Council of its fiscal policy, and that \$100,000 is earmarked for economic development and is not being spent. He said the Council is overcharging the citizens if it is collecting that money and not spending it.

Mr. George Sedlacek said the City needs economic development in this town, and that it is not a matter of the park versus core services.

Ms. Dawn Schuhknecht addressed the Council regarding the need for core services, the police department, and how the opinion of citizens who moved into the community and started their own businesses should be considered.

A citizen who did not give her name encouraged the City Council to invest in its community and in parks and safe recreation.

## **COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS**

Council Member Menhennick said the District Library Committee met and went over Negaunee and Ishpeming library budgets. The next meeting is on March 30.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Wills said the Council did not shoot down the park grant, but tabled it. He also said the City has a nice park in Miner's Park, and that he defines core services to be police, fire and DPW.

Council Member Maino asked about eliminating City cell phones and was informed that was never voted to be done. He inquired about the Cable TV committee, which he was told will meet next Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

Council Member Dompierre reminded the Council that the water utility is a stand-alone fund, and has to be paid for like a business. He spoke on the importance of economic development. He also read from the Charter and questioned if the qualifications of the interim city manager meet the Charter specifications.

Council Member VanStraten complained about CNRR blowing its horn at all hours of the morning and whether or not a letter was ever sent to them regarding this. In reference to the new Jackson Park, he said the issue had been addressed many times in the last two years, and the opinion of the council has always been that it should not go forward until the old park property is sold.

Council Member Haines commented on the interim city manager qualifications, and said a letter is supposed to be coming to the City Attorney regarding this, but she indicated she had not received it yet.

Council Member Menhennick said she believes core services are public safety, public works and public libraries. She said a balance must be found between core services and economic development in this fiscal environment.

Mayor Gravedoni pointed out that the City has applied for no grants in 2010 because the council has not set policy on its direction. He said he'd like to see the Council meet to discuss what its definition of core services are so things can move forward and get together for the good of the community.

## **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Peterson said the first quarter numbers for 2010 are not good, and this will be an agenda item in April. The State-shared revenue is off \$100,000. The economic climate will be

horrible in 2011, and worse in 2012. He received a foundation grant of \$2,500 for the water works building, but the city needs to match this.

Mayor Gravedoni made a motion to have the City accept the community foundation grant for the water works building with a match in the amount of \$2,500. Council Member Dompierre seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

City Manager Peterson went on to discuss the adoption of the county-wide Haz-Mat plan, and will put this on the council's April agenda to get a presentation and approve this.

Also, a US-41/M-28 comprehensive corridor and access management plan is out there, and the county and M-DOT should do a presentation to the council regarding this for an eventual resolution adopting this plan. This item also will be put on the next agenda.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Council Member Menhennick made a motion to go into closed session to discuss union negotiations, and to have the secretary take minutes. Council Member Haines seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Wills, Maino, VanStraten, Haines, Menhennick and Mayor Gravedoni

Nays: None

Abstentions: Council Member Dompierre

The City Council returned from closed session at 10:45 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Wills made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Dompierre seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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Kristy Basolo