

**MINUTES
CITY OF NEGAUNEE REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 11, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Negaunee City Council was held on Thursday June 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Negaunee Senior Center.

Members Present: Mayor Haines, Council Members Menhennick, VanStraten, Schuhknecht, Visser, Kangas and Smith

Members Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item #10D – Sundberg Building Update was moved to Agenda Item #6A.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Menhennick and unanimously carried to approve the Agenda as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public wished to comment.

SUNDBERG BUILDING

City Attorney Houghton gave a brief history of the Sundberg Building. He stated that the building was bought by Mr. Jim Kantola in 2003 and the building's roof collapsed in 2010. At the time a fence was put around the front of the building for safety. Since that time the City has tried to work with Mr. Kantola for a resolution to his problem with the building. Mr. Kantola has come to the Council with ideas but he has not followed through with them. There was a meeting with Mr. Kantola, Marquette County Treasurer's office, and the MEDC with no resolution. Mr. Kantola has solicited bids for the demolition of the building but he cannot qualify for grants as the building has been listed on Michigan's Historical Register in 2012.

City Attorney Houghton stated that the Council has waited 5 years for Mr. Kantola to do something with his building and due to an outpouring of concerns from the community, how the building affects the downtown area and safety concerns it is time for the Council to work with Marquette County in the demolition of the building.

A motion was made by Council Member VanStraten, supported by Council Member Menhennick and unanimously carried to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the County Building Inspector indemnifying him from all costs and expenses arising from the demolition and site remediation at 521 Iron Street, Negaunee; and to pursue all legal remedies to recover money expended by the City arising from demolition and site remediation at 521 Iron Street.

2014 CITY AUDIT

Mr. Mike Greutz, Anderson and Tackman were present regarding the 2014 Audit. He commented on the MERS unfunded liability for pension because of GASB. He stated that it has always been there but because of the new laws it has to show up on the books no. He stated that the City is in good shape financial with 140 days worth of fund balance. The City's revenues have increased and expenses have decreased. He briefly discussed all of the Enterprise funds. The Cable fund will be closed out over the next few months. Mr. Greutz stated that there has been a significantly improvements over the last six years in the City's finances.

City Manager Thornton applauded the City's employees and citizens for their understanding over the past years and stated that things are improving.

FIRST READING REZONING/ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

The City Planning Commission entertained a request that the property located at 225 North Pioneer Ave be rezoned from R-2 to B-1 and that the zoning map be updated to reflect that. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing and recommends this rezoning.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to approve the 1st Reading of the amendment to the Zoning Map #1266 as presented and set a 2nd Reading and Public Hearing for Thursday July 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Negaunee Senior Center.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A motion was made by Council Member Schuhknecht, supported by Council Member VanStraten and unanimously carried to support the Mayoral appointment of Ms. Janice Chittle to the vacant seat on the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Council Member Schuhknecht, supported by Council Member Smith and unanimously carried to appoint Ms. Kate Peterson to the vacate seat on the Commission on Aging.

PECK STREET RESURFACING BIDS

City staff received two proposals for the milling and resurfacing of approximately 460 feet of road on W. Peck St.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member VanStraten, and unanimously carried to award the low bid of \$36,071.95 to Payne and Dolan Inc. with budgeted monies from the street maintenance budget.

ELECTRICAL UTILITY BORING

In 2014 the Council accepted to enter into a development agreement with Hinkson Development and approved the burial of an existing overhead utility line. In the 2015 budget our electric budgeted \$40,000 for improvements to the #3 circuit which runs under the Negaunee Public Schools athletic field. Due to the schools recent improvements to the field, our electric utility was exploring other options rather than traditional trenching and explored the possibility of underground boring which has far less of an impact. An example of which a trenching project performed in Miners Park three years ago is still evident today.

A motion was made by Council Member VanStraten, supported by Council Member Smith and unanimously carried to enter into an agreement with L&H in the amount of \$24,500 for performing the boring towards replacement of the URD Circuit #3 project as allowed by Charter.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Schuhknecht, supported by Council Member Visser and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: May 14, 2015 Regular Minutes, Claims and Accounts paid for the month of May in the amount of \$468,903.16 (check #72103-#72233), Revenue/Expenditure Trial Balance Reports, Marquette County Landfill Resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Barb Marcotte addressed the Council regarding the fire at her house and asked that the water thawing policy of the City be reviewed.

Mr. Bill Richards addressed the Council regarding who is responsible for shutting his water off at 82 Croix St. for 45 days.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Menhennick commented on the Audit presentation. She thanked the community for their patience during the time the City needed to get back on track. She commented on a debt reduction plan during budget time for GASB.

Council Member VanStraten commented on the Audit. He commended the Police Departments and light department's job during an incident at his house.

A motion was made by Council Member VanStraten, supported by Council Member Menhennick and unanimously carried to have City Staff study the current thaw policy for freeze ups and to explore other community's policies and report back to the Council.

City of Negaunee Regular Meeting
Thursday June 11, 2015

Council Member Schuhknecht commented on Mr. Bill Richards from 82 Croix St. comments. She stated that after reading all of the information regarding Mr. Richards's issues the City is proceeding correctly and that the City was advised to go through Mr. Richards Attorney.

Council Member Kangas commented on the good audit.

Council Member Smith thanked the citizens who ran for the open Boards and Commission seats.

Mayor Haines reminded everyone about Pioneer Days.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager commented on the Farmer's Market, City Band Concerts, and the third Thursday Art Fair, the fish dock and that the City would be flushing hydrants. He also commented on the surveys for the Master Plan.

CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Houghton stated that the Council has been given all of the information regarding 82 Croix St. and the City was instructed to speak through Mr. Richards Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Ann Ducoli
Deputy Clerk