

MINUTES
CITY OF NEGAUNEE SPECIAL MEETING – SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Negaunee City Council was held on Thursday November 3, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the Negaunee Senior Center after being called by councilmen Wallner, Visser and Saari.

Members Present: Mayor Schuhknecht, Council Members Visser, Kangas, Smith, Saari, and Wallner.

Members Absent: Council Member Gladwell

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The mayor relinquished the floor to City Attorney Houghton who stated that Council can **NOT** take the action stated in the notice of special meeting: *“To reevaluate and potentially rescind the motion that was made at our last council meeting in October to demolition (sic)the Sundberg Building, thus canceling the contract made with Mr. Carrier for \$275,000.”*

Negaunee Charter Section 5.5 provides :” **No action of the Council shall be rescinded or reconsidered at a special meeting, unless there be present as many members as were present when such action was taken.**”

Attorney Houghton pointed out that councilman Gladwell was not present at this meeting so no action can be taken. He suggested proceeding as for a town hall meeting to receive public and Council comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vicki Kulju presented a timeline, spoke on better uses for the money such as ice arena floor and of the Kantola’s progress and hopes.

Amy Clickner of the LSCP said that a developer inquired with the LSCP speaking of a possibility of an affordable housing unit and that it would take 2 to 3 months for a due diligence investigation. The LSCP will keep the developer apprised during their due diligence.

Kathy Tresseder lives and owns property across from the Sundberg Building and called it an eyesore and safety hazard. She stated that her property insurance got cancelled because she lived within sixty feet of a dilapidated building which forced her to acquire more costly insurance. She explained that she had gotten a notice from the city when pigeons were sitting on their building defecating on the sidewalk when there is a “pigeon condo” across the street. She concluded by questioning the asbestos coming into her open window and explaining that she now uses an inhaler.

Kim Sowle told of the letter that she had received from the manager in 2010 telling her to close her bar because of the Sundberg Building and in 2013 she had to pay for a new water hook-up because the water

main broke on the Sundberg property and the owners would not fix it costing her \$5,000 to connect in front of her building and the taxpayers had to pay for the let run for her to get water from the VFW. Joan King said that seventeen months ago the council took steps to take care of the Sundberg building and the county construction appeals board gave Kantola his own timeline until September 2016 when the county construction appeals board denied the variance. Why waste more time and money. Kantola should have put money into the building so the roof didn't collapse. It's time, it looks like Little Detroit with the ratty curtains.

Jared DuShane said that it was evident that there are strong feelings and that there needs to be openness. Eyesore, pile of rubble but should look at the cheapest bid.

Mark Dehoog echoed DuShane and asked why it couldn't wait until spring if it is a pile of rubble and asked for accountability.

Alice Johnson said enough is enough. Nothing has been done to that building and there are a lot of other buildings that need to be saved.

Jim Kantola questioned the \$275,000 when there was another bid for \$160,000 and that the manager had sent a letter regarding his fencing.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Council Member Kangas thank the members of the public that attended the meeting and those that spoke.

Mayor Schuhknecht stated she has been dealing with this building since she came on the Council over 6 years ago and the Kantola have been given every opportunity to do something about the building. The process that has been followed has been fair and while she has sympathy for them the building must come down, it is unsafe and a danger.

The mayor asked the attorney if he would like to comment and he provided a timeline of the events that brought the city to this point. He also spoke of having conversation with the Kantola's attorney and fully expecting some sort of court action forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss a motion was made by Council Member Visser, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 pm.

Jeffrey Thornton