

**MINUTES
CITY OF NEGAUNEE REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2024**

A Regular meeting of the Negaunee City Council was held on Thursday January 28, 2024 in the Negaunee Senior Center.

Members Present: Mayor Kangas, Council Members Smith, Becker, Howard, Ilmonen, and Flohe

Members Absent: Council Member Karki

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen, supported by Council Member Becker to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Plummer Negaunee resident addressed the Council with his concerns about changing this property from a public area and allowing it to be sold to developers. He stated he is not for the rezoning.

Margaret Twitchell Negaunee resident addressed the Council regarding the rezoning and the housing shortage. She stated that she is for the rezoning.

Carrie Plummer Negaunee resident addressed the Council stating that this land is a sanctuary for many people. She stated she is not for the rezoning.

Amanda Gunavati Negaunee resident addressed the Council in opposition of the rezoning.

Mike Millet Negaunee resident addressed the Council and stated that he lives near the land and that it is a unique area for walking. He stated he is in opposition of the rezoning.

Henry Plummer Negaunee resident addressed the Council and stated that he is opposed to the rezoning and would like to see it a public space.

Kevin Kuppe Marquette resident addressed the Council and stated that he hikes in this area and does not want to see it taken away.

Floyd Johns Negaunee resident addressed the Council and stated that he is opposed to the rezoning and questioned the ownership of the land.

Kaitlyn Negaunee resident addressed the Council stating she was opposed to the rezoning due to the deer, flowers and people who might not respect the area.

Heidi Johns Negaunee resident addressed the Council and is opposed to the rezoning. She stated the area might look small but that it is the entrance to the Old Town area.

William Olmsted owner of the duplex near the land stated that he is opposed to the rezoning. He quoted pages from the Master Plan regarding recreation and public spaces.

Susane Negaunee resident addressed the Council and stated she owns the old church near that area and moved here because of the public space available and near that property. She stated that what Negaunee has is unique in that area.

Esther Ruggles Ishpeming business owner and Marquette resident addressed the Council and stated that she is opposed to the rezoning and asked that it be left alone.

Dave Bimel Negaunee stated that he owns rentals in town and that they are marketed for the recreation and Old Town area. He stated once you rezone it slowly gets picked away.

Bell Bimel ?? Negaunee resident stated that she homeschools her children and they spend a lot of time in the Old Towne area. She is opposed to the rezoning.

Stephanie Robar Negaunee resident addressed the Council and stated that she is a longtime resident and has spent a lot of time in the Old Towne area and is opposed to the rezoning.

Kristen Baumont Negaunee resident that she moved here from Chicago and is opposed to the rezoning.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #156 – REZONING 2ND READING

Mayor Kangas opened the public hearing.

Gary Nelson Negaunee resident addressed the Council in favor of the rezoning as it brings in economic development.

William Olmsted commented on the tax base and more development there is also more costs and tax exemptions for new development

Amanda Gunavati addressed the Council and commented on the lots that were sold in the Jackson Grove Park for \$7500 a piece and the money spent on the water line to those properties. She stated that citizens should be included in the process and sees a pattern here.

Don Schinella commented in favor of the rezoning and discussed a possible land swap for his land and the city's.

Jeff Plummer commented on Mr. Schinella's land swap comment and stated that it was comparing apples to oranges as that land is privately owned. He stated he was on the DDA when the Old Towne was purchased.

Dawn Evans Negaunee commented that she agrees housing is a concern but that the Old Towne area is not in the best interest of the city.

Carrie Plummer commented on the housing shortage and affordable housing and that the Jackson Grove development is not affordable.

Mayor Kangas closed the public hearing at this time.

City Manager Heffron at this time gave a presentation with questions and answers regarding the rezoning of the Old Towne 5 acres.

Dave Nelson, Planning/Zoning gave a brief review of the map and available lands for development.

Dan Hill Ramba addressed the Council in support of the rezoning.

A motion was made by Council Member Becker and supported by Council Member Smith to approve the 2nd reading and adopt Ordinance Amendment #156 Rezoning.

A discussion was had. Council Member Becker commented on other recreation land available in the city. Council Member Smith commented that when he lived by the land only a handful of people utilizing that area. Council Member Ilmonen stated that another area could be found for this development and he is listening to what the constituents want.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Smith, Becker, Flohe and Mayor Kangas

Nays: Council Members Ilmonen and Howard

The motion passed on a 4-2 vote.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Mayor Kangas, and unanimously carried to take a 5-minute recess.

Mayor Kangas called the meeting back into order.

COUNCIL ORIENTATION

City Attorney Pickens gave a presentation on the City Council Policies and Procedures. He commented on agenda items, Charter and Ordinances, Roberts Rules of Order, and the Open

Meetings Act. He also discussed the Ethics policy of the Council. He mentioned that the Council would need to have a more in-depth conversation regarding Council Member Karki's absences and options.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 94.04 TREE ORDINANCE 1ST READING

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Flohe, and unanimously carried to approve the 1st reading and set a public hearing and 2nd reading for the February 8th regular meeting.

VISTA AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Becker, and unanimously carried to approve the VISTA Agreement for the 3 million grant and allow Dave Nelson to sign it.

MARQUETTE COUNTY LANDBANK VISTA ROOF AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen and supported by Council Member Smith to approve and sign the agreement with the Landbank for the overage payment of \$295,076 out of the 3 million grants for the VISTA Roof.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Member Becker, Ilmonen, Flohe, Smith and Mayor Kangas

Nays: Council Member Howard

The motion passed on a 5-1 vote.

VISTA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – NORTHERN DESIGN WORKS

A motion was made by Council Member Smith and supported by Council Member Becker to approve the agreement with Northern Design Works in the amount of \$210,000 with monies being paid from the 3 million grants.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Member Ilmonen, Flohe, Smith, Becker, and Mayor Kangas

Nays: Council Member Howard

The motion passed on a 5-1 vote.

FIRE HALL DRAIN EMERGENCY REPAIRS

A motion was made by Council Member Howard, supported by Council Member Ilmonen, and unanimously carried to approve the emergency repairs for the Firehall drain in the amount of \$6537 with monies being paid from the fund balance of the building fund.

LSCP AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Flohe, and unanimously carried to approve the LSCP Agreement in the amount of \$10,000 with a budget adjustment of \$4000 for the balance by drawing down the fund balance of the City Improvement Fund.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen, supported by Council Member Smith, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: December 14, 2023 Regular Minutes, Claims and Accounts in the amount of \$944,819.04 (checks #86494-86641), Revenue/Expenditure Trial Balance Reports, Parking Permit Fees, MERS Resolution – City Manager Defined Contribution Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Plummer addressed the Council regarding the vote for the rezoning. He commented on the public not being heard here tonight.

Antonio Adan addressed the Council and thanked the Council for bringing the issue to light. He stated that he is the Housing Specialist for Marquette County.

Dani Jacklan addressed the Council stating that the room was not set up properly for people that were in attendance.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Flohe thanked everyone for being there and stated they will listen going forward in the process.

Council Member Ilmonen commented on keeping the fire hydrants clear during the winter.

Council Member Howard also mention the fire hydrants and that during the 30 inches of snow there should have been a plan for people who need to be able to get out and that did not happen.

Council Member Smith commented that the crowd was as big as the teal Lake issue and that city staff did a good job during the snow storm.

Council Member Becker stated that his first meeting was entertaining, thanked the people who spoke, ski jumps and Heikki Lunta.

Mayor Kangas commented on the ski jumps and snow banks.

CITY MANAGER

Commented on the Economic Development Committee, Parking Fees, Heikki Lunta, snow removal and that he would reach out to the Plummers for their input.

CITY ATTORNEY

No comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comment a motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen, supported by Council Member Smith, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.



Ann Ducoli
Deputy Clerk