

**MINUTES
CITY OF NEGAUNEE REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2023**

A Regular meeting of the Negaunee City Council was held on Thursday December 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Negaunee Senior Center.

Members Present: Mayor Kangas, Council Members Smith, Howard (arrived at 6:40 p.m.), Ilmonen and Flohe

Members Absent: Council Member Karki

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen, supported by Council Member Smith, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Plummer was present to read a letter regarding the re zoning of land in the Old Towne Area. He expressed his concerns and stated there should have been more public input.

Carrie Plumber addressed the Council with her concerns regarding the re zoning of the land in Old Towne and that the public should have been more aware.

Blake Becker addressed the Council with his support of Jon Becker for the vacant council seat and thanked everyone for the improvements to Iron Street.

Glenn Lerlie, RAMBA addressed the Council echoing the Plummer's concerns and stated that RAMBA has always had a good working relationship with the city.

Floyd Johns addressed the Council with his concerns regarding the re zoning.

Scott Harmon addressed the Council with his concerns regarding the re zoning.

Jon Becker addressed the Council and explained the process the Planning Commission went through in regards to the re zoning.

PUBLIC HEARING – CRD 400 IRON STREET

The mayor opened the public hearing. One of the partners in the business at 400 Iron Street was present to answer any questions. No one from the public wished to comment. The public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith and supported by Council Member Flohe to approve the abatement for 4 years for 400 Iron Street.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

Nays: Council Member Howard

The motion passed on a 4-1 vote.

VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

Diana Menhennick addressed the Council. She stated that she had been on the council in the past. She commented on her 30 years in the public sector her knowledge of government, working budgets and public policy and her desire to serve her community.

Dean Maki addressed the Council and stated that he has served on various boards in the community and would like to get involved with the operation of the city government.

Jon Becker addressed the Council and stated that he had served on the City Council in the past and has been on the Planning Commission for over 10 years. He stated that he is up to speed on current projects in the city and feels he would make a good council member.

Tracy Dietz addressed the Council and stated she is currently on the Planning Commission and that the best candidate would be Mr. Becker because of his knowledge.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Flohe, and unanimously carried to appoint Jon Becker to the vacancy until the next regular election.

CITY ATTORNEY AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Ilmonen, and unanimously carried to approve the agreement.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A motion was made by Mayor Kangas, supported by Council Member Smith, and unanimously carried to appoint Jeff Gardyko to the Planning Commission, John Thomas and Dale Rogers to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, supported by Council Member Flohe, and unanimously carried to appoint Melissa Kuhlman to the DDA, Larry Dillman and Allan Rautio to the Commission on Aging and Josh Fruik and Terry Tincknell to the Board of Review.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith and supported by Council Member Ilmonen to appoint Dave Kangas to the Zoning Board of Appeals. This motion passed 3-1 with Mayor Kangas abstaining.

USDA DRAW #12 AND CHANGE ORDER #5 – PHASE I WATER PROJECT

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen and supported by Council Member Flohe to approve Draw #12 in the amount of \$696,659.99 participation and \$531,247.99 non-participating.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

Nays: Council Member Howard

The motion passed on a 4-1 vote.

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen and supported by Council Member Smith to approve Change Order #5 in the amount of \$301,435.94.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Ilmonen, Flohe, Smith, Howard, and Mayor Kangas

Nays: None

The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

REZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 1ST READING

City Manager Heffron and Planner Dave Nelson gave a presentation on the re zoning of the property in Old Towne.

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen, supported by Council Member Flohe, and unanimously carried to approve the 1st read and set a public hearing and 2nd reading for the January 18, 2023 regular meeting.

TRAILER BIDS

The DPW Recreation Dept needs a bigger trailer for hauling equipment, tables, streetscape items. There is currently \$8,000 budgeted in the equipment fund for this purchase.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith and supported by Council Member Ilmonen to award the trailer bid to the lowest bidder Midway Rentals in the amount of \$10,339.99 with

\$8,000 coming from the equipment millage and the balance being paid out of the streetscape fund.

VISTA ROOF REPAIR

The Marquette Landbank was awarded \$418,924 in a grant for the replacement of the VISTA Roof. Two bids were received from Closner \$779,934 and Premeau \$714,000. City Staff is requesting to use \$295,076 of the 3 million that was allocated to the city by the State to make up the difference.

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen and supported by Council Member Smith to use \$295,076 of the 3 million VISTA allocation to make up the difference for the VISTA roof repair.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

Nays: Council Member Howard

The motion passed on a 4-1 vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Ilmonen and supported by Council Member Smith to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: November 9th regular minutes, Claims and Accounts in the amount of \$464,747.04 AP (checks #86314-86493), 140,675.83 WPPI, \$390,566.67 Substation, Revenue/Expenditure Trial Balance Reports, PA 152 Resolution, Delinquent utilities to the tax rolls, set meeting dates, financial depositories, CIP resolution and the WPPI loan application for the substation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public wished to comment.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Council Member Flohe excited to be back on the council.

Council Member Ilmonen commented on missing Tinseltown and wished everyone Happy Holiday's.

Council Member Howard commented that he was a little off today and that it had been a long week. He felt a lot of topics were skimmed over quickly and that he had gotten a phone call from Adam Karki that he had relayed to the mayor.

Mayor Kangas commented on Tinseltown and that Heikki Lunta was coming up. He also welcomed Council Members Flohe and Becker.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Heffron commented on the good showing for Tinseltown, Heikki Lunta is coming soon, trailers committee and parking program.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss a motion was made by Council Member Flohe, supported by Council Member Howard, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m.



Ann Duoli
Ann Duoli
Deputy Clerk