

Crystal Falls, Michigan

March 8, 2010

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Crystal Falls was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on Monday, March 8, 2010 at 5:00 P.M. Central Time.

Roll Call: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Hagglund, Burke, Bicigo, and Smokevitch.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Lawrence and Interim City Manager Olson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Peltoma.

Mayor Hendrickson led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilor Burke seconded by Councilor Smokevitch moved that the items on the Consent Agenda be approved as noted below:

1. The minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2010, and special meetings of February 10, February 15, and February 22, 2010 as written.
2. The following reports for the month of February 2010:
 - A. Joint Fire Authority report, as submitted by Fire Chief Ahola, indicating answering one (1) fire call; spending approximately 14 man-hours fighting fires; and holding one(1) practice and training session.
 - B. Police report, as submitted by Police Chief Robert Sherwin, indicating 118 complaints, of which 3 were closed by arrest, and logging of 1,517 miles on patrol duty.
 - C. Public Works Department activity report as submitted by Foreman Kelly Stankewicz.
 - D. Treasurer's Revenue Report as submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Dorothea Olson.
3. Payrolls and disbursements in the amount of \$364,924.07 be approved, and instruct the City Clerk to draw checks on the City Treasury in payment of same.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson Councilors Hagglund, Smokevitch, Burke and Bicigo. Nays: None

Motion carried.

Visitors:

Susie Simeoni reported on the Crystal Falls District Community Library renewal of 1 mill for 5 years that will be on the May 4th ballot. This would be a reduction from the 1.4 mills previously passed.

Scott Kenney gave brief report regarding the 2008-2009 fiscal year audit with a full report to follow at a future meeting.

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Scott Thrasher, Debra Rhodes, Norb Dishaw, and Don Boulanger gave their opinion on selling or leasing the Golf Course.

Mayor Hendrickson made a recommendation to delay the terminating of the Clubhouse lease and to allow the golf course advisory committee to meet and give recommendations for expense reductions at the Golf Course.

Councilor Burke commented that the City of Crystal Falls is not in the position to operate the Golf Course with the lay off of City employees, and raising the electric, water, and TV rates. But forming an organization to operate the golf course could be an option.

Scott McNelis gave a brief update on the Water project - Phase II. There has been an advertisement placed for bids that are due April 7th. It is possible that construction may not be able to start this year depending on the amount of time it takes for the loan closing.

Mayor Hendrickson temporarily adjourned the regular meeting to conduct a public hearing on the ORV Trail thru City property.

Meeting temporarily adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORV TRAIL THRU CITY:

Councilor Bicigo asked if the agreement would be for 5 years.

Councilor Burke commented that there is some discomfort with the noise.

Rob Katona from DNR in Marquette commented that the DNR could apply some chemicals to control the dust if needed.

Debra Rhodes asked if chemicals are safe and if the trail would be open for walking or bikes. Mr. Katona said that the trail is open for walking or bikes along with ATV's or snowmobiles.

Councilor Burke commented that it is also a route for the "Run your Bass off". Interim City Manager Olson asked if the trail could be re-routed to an alley off of Crystal Ave so the trail would not go on a busy street. Chief Bob Sherwin had concerns that it could be confusing and people might get lost without proper signage. Councilor Bicigo also commented on the re-route to alley on Crystal Ave. Discussion started regarding the 56 mile ATV trail and how it would bring tourism to the city. The Campground owner that previously denied access thru the campground might change his mind after he sees the tourism this brings in. This trail could be a temporary trail in that case. There would be

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no expense to the City of Crystal Falls. People would typically have year round access to the trail.

Mayor Hendrickson adjourned this public hearing.

The regular meeting reconvened at 6:25 p.m.

Councilor Hagglund seconded by Councilor Burke moved to grant permission to the State of Michigan to designate a portion of City owned land as part of the State's formal ORV trail system.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilor Burke, Smokevitch, Hagglund, and Bicigo. Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Mayor Hendrickson temporarily adjourned the regular meeting to conduct a public hearing on the Sale of City owned properties for Habitat for Humanity.

Meeting temporarily adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SALE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTIES FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

Bill Stevenson Director of Habitat for Humanity Menominee River spoke on how the home ownership works. Manager Olson asked if Habitat had a spending limit toward the purchases of land. The Lot #18 in the Western Loc. currently has been on the market for many years. This is an opportunity to generate tax money and utility revenue.

Public comment: Scott Thrasher asked if they are built up to code. Mr. Stevenson replied that all houses were.

Mayor Hendrickson closed the public hearing.

Regular meeting reconvened at 6:36 p.m.

Councilor Smokevitch seconded by Councilor Hagglund moved to sell parcel described as Lot #18 of Great Western Plat #1 at a reduced price of \$ 1,000 to Habitat for Humanity Menominee River.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Burke, Smokevitch, Hagglund, and Bicigo. Nays: None

Motion carried.

A date of April 12, 2010 is set for a public hearing to address the Ordinance No. 1.13 as described as Floodplain management provisions of the state construction code.

Councilor Hagglund seconded by Councilor Burke moved to reject the \$30,000 offer from Crystal Falls Township but to offer an arrangement for the amount of \$35,075.20 and at that time the City

will refund the Township residents that have paid the non-local rate the difference between local and non-local rates.

Motion carried.

No action was taken for a part time meter reader position.

Milfoil discussions will be tabled until April 12, 2010.

Councilor Bicigo seconded by Councilor Burke moved to have a negotiation committee consisting of WPPI, Dave Graff, and Interim City Manager Olson to negotiate an agreement with We Energies for a reduced rate from May 2011-April 2014.(After that the City will be in a long-term contract with WPPI)

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Burke, Smokevitch, Hagglund, and Bicigo. Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mayor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Hagglund to appoint the Mayor as another signer on the City of Crystal Falls financial accounts.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Burke, Smokevitch, Hagglund, and Bicigo. Nays: None

Motion carried.

Crossing guard fund raising is a non-issue after the school has made arrangements to bus the students across the highways.

Mayor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Hagglund to moved to amend the service deposit policy to hold each service deposit for a minimum of 2 years or until the homeowner submits proof of a cleared mortgage on the property for city residents and township residents.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Burke, Smokevitch, Hagglund, and Bicigo. Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mayor Hendrickson seconded by Councilor Burke to adopt the resolution for Heritage Trail.

CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Crystal Falls is dedicated to improving the recreation facilities and opportunities in Iron County; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Heritage Trail Committee has developed a plan for a non-motorized pathway connecting Iron River to Crystal Falls; and

WHEREAS, this project provides an important connection between Iron County communities, recreation facilities and heritage sites; and

WHEREAS, this multijurisdictional project will enhance non-motorized recreation in four cities and 3 townships in the County; and

WHEREAS, there are grant monies available from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to support such a project;
and

WHEREAS, Iron County has applied to the National Scenic Byways Program for \$1,000,000 towards the \$1,617,850 project and the City of Gaastra and Stambaugh Township will be providing \$122,250 in materials towards the project;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Crystal Falls City Council approves applying to the MNRTF for Phase 1 of the Pathway Project that will connect Caspian to Pentoga Park. Crystal Falls is committed to the project and will help coordinate the project if grant funds are awarded.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Burke, Smokevitch, Hagglund, and Bicigo. Nays: None

Resolution adopted.

Councilor Bicigo seconded by Councilor Smokevitch moved to support the annexation of city properties West of ski Hill and West of wells property.

Ayes: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Burke, Smokevitch, Hagglund, and Bicigo. Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilor Hagglund seconded by Councilor Smokevitch moved to adjourn this meeting.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

PRESIDING OFFICER _____

PRESIDING CLERK _____