

**MINUTES
CITY OF NEGAUNEE REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 8, 2018**

A Regular Meeting of the Negaunee City Council was held on Thursday March 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Negaunee Senior Center.

Members Present: Mayor Gladwell, Council Members Maino, Wallner, Kantola, Anderson and Kangas

Members Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Power, LSCP asked to speak on agenda item #7.3.

Margaret Twitchell spoke in support of Jon Becker to fill the empty Council seat.

Donna VanStraten spoke in support of Jon Becker to fill her husband's vacant Council seat.

Rebecca asked to speak on agenda item #8.5.

Tonja Acker Richards commented on communication, the posting of the DPW Director position and the fireworks.

PLAQUE HONORING MIKE VANSTRATEN

At this time Mayor Gladwell presented a plaque to the VanStraten family for his dedication as a Council Member, Member of the 911 Board and 30 years as a Negaunee City Police Officer.

Ashley Coty, Mike Vanstraten's daughter spoke about her father and his dedication as a Council Member.

IOHTA EASEMENT REQUEST

A motion was made by Council Member Maino, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to grant an easement along the entire Heritage Trail for placement of underground electrical wiring and light poles and fixtures.

224 E. JACKSON EASEMENT REQUEST

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, supported by Council Member Kantola and unanimously carried to grant an easement at 224 E. Jackson St.

LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Mr. Eric Powers, LSCP was present to answer any questions.

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, supported by Council Member Wallner and unanimously carried to enter into a two year agreement with the LSCP in the amount of \$6,000.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson and supported by Council Member Kangas to go into Closed Session to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Maino, Wallner, Kantola, Anderson, Kangas and Mayor Gladwell

Nays: None

The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

The meeting was called back into open session at 7:56 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Wallner, supported by Council Member Maino and unanimously carried to continue with the Sundberg Building lawsuit and seek reimbursement of the demolition costs. Council Member Kantola abstained.

PEG CHANNEL

A motion was made by Council Member Maino, supported by Council Member Wallner and unanimously carried to file an informal complaint with the MPSC to get Charter to work with Negaunee in getting the PEG Channel back.

VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

The following candidates each gave a brief summary of their background and why they wanted to be on the Council: Kristy Flohe, Gary Sjolund, Toby Smith, Jon Becker and Ben Banfield.

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

NEW LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST – 81 CROIX ST.

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, supported by Council Member Kantola and unanimously carried to approve the new liquor license for 81 Croix St.

2017 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

A motion was made by Council Member Maino, supported by Council Member Kantola and unanimously carried to make the necessary budget adjustments for 2017.

FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Council Member Wallner, supported by Council Member Kantola and unanimously carried to amend the 2018 Fee Schedule for the Farmer's Market Fees and the Cargo Trailer rental.

CCI RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Council Member Wallner and supported by Council Member Anderson to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION CITY OF NEGAUNEE SUPPORT FOR REOPENING OF THE EMPIRE MINE

WHEREAS, the City of Negaunee is closely connected to Cleveland –Cliffs, Inc. (CCI) from a shared history, economic ties, and partnership in economic development, and

WHEREAS, the idling of the Empire Mine has an approximately \$180m annual negative economic impact on the region, and reopening of the Empire Mine would turn that around through the increase in commerce and economic prosperity in the region; and

WHEREAS, the importance of reopening the Empire Mine to the local economy cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, Marquette County will continue to be a great location for CCI employees and their families; and

WHEREAS, many citizens, business owners, organizations and municipalities support reopening the Empire Mine; and

WHEREAS, reopening the Empire Mine would create many new, high quality jobs, indirect and induced economic benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Negaunee encourages and supports a CCI decision to reopen the Empire Mine;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Negaunee respectfully requests advice from CCI regarding what actions CCI would suggest to secure a decision to reopen the Empire Mine.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Negaunee commends Chairman, President, and CEO Lourenco Goncalves and CCI for considering to reopen the Empire Mine and continuing to invest in the Marquette County region.

Members voting Aye: Council Members Wallner, Kantola, Anderson, Kangas, Maino and Mayor Gladwell

Members voting Nay: None

The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

HISTORIC DISTRICT RESOLUTION

Rebecca (a citizen) asked about the area. City Manager Heffron stated that it has not been decided yet.

A motion was made by Council Member Kantola, supported by Council Member Anderson and unanimously carried to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION PROJECT
CITY OF NEGAUNEE**

WHEREAS, The City of Negaunee has long valued its historic character; and

WHEREAS, the research necessary to obtain a National Register of Historic Places Historic District Designation is beyond the capability of the local community; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is a proven method of economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Negaunee has requested that the MEDC to provide a highly qualified expert, Jessica Flores of Preservation Forward, to conduct the research necessary to obtain this designation from the National Park Service and to pay for the cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of the district will be subject to review an final approval prior to the application being submitted to the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, this project will formally recognize and obtain national recognition of the historic importance of our great community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Negaunee City Council approves of this historic district designation project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Negaunee City Council encourages maximum public participation in the effort to identify and describe historic buildings and sites in the downtown.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Negaunee City Council commends Jessica Flores for undertaking this major project and looks forward to approval of the final Federal application when it is ready.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, supported by Council Member Maino and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as follows: February 8, 2018 Regular Minutes, Claims and Accounts in the amount of \$668,772.16 (checks #76752-76887), Revenue/Expenditure Trial Balance Reports, Major Street Resolution, ACT 345 Board Appointment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Toby Smith thanked the council for their consideration of his application for Council.

Tonja Acker Richards spoke about communication, transparency and the bi plane on Teal Lake.

Ben Banfield thanked the Council for their consideration of his application for Council. He urged caution when apply for historical grants.

Jon Becker thanked the Council for the opportunity and encouraged everyone else to run again in November.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Kangas commented on the community involvement.

Council Member Kantola thanked everyone who ran.

Council Member Wallner commented on the great opportunities ahead and agreed with using caution with historical grants.

Council Member Maino thanked everyone. He commented on the delinquent utility accounts referenced in the packets and that something should be done about it. The City Manager assured him the legal process was being followed.

Mayor Gladwell thanked the candidates, wished everyone a happy Easter and reminded everyone to use caution during Spring Break.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Heffron commented on the DPW Director ad and the Planning/Zoning Ad, the blight committee, International property code in the Library, the Historic District public hearings, the CUPPAD CIP report and that he would be gone for the MML Conference.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Pickens thanked the Administrative Assistant, Ann Ducoli for her hard work and dedication since they have started working for the City.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss a motion was made by Council Member Wallner, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Ann Ducoli
Deputy Clerk