

A regular meeting of the City Commission was held in the Commission Room of the City-County building, 325 Court Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on Monday, February 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bosbous

Present: Mayor Bosbous, Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell and Stefanski

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Nebel, City Attorney Cannello, City Clerk Robin R. Troyer, and various department heads

Mayor Bosbous congratulated the I-500 committee on another successful race.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Moved by Commissioner Stefanski, supported by Commissioner Bauer

That the following consent agenda items be approved:

#### **Minute Approval:**

That the minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held on Monday, February 2, 2009 be approved as written and circulated and the minutes of the following boards and commissions received and placed on file:

- a. Community Services Board – January 27, 2009
- b. Historical Development Commission – February 3, 2009
- c. Planning & Development Commission – January 22, 2009
- d. Police & Fire Pension Board – January 28, 2009
- e. Bayliss Public Library – December 18, 2008

#### **Appointments and Resignations:**

Informed the City Commission and the public of the vacancy on the Historical Development Commission.

Carried: Yeas: Mayor Bosbous, Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell, and Stefanski  
Nays: None

### **SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS:**

At the February 2<sup>nd</sup> City Commission meeting, the Commission held a first reading on the proposed ordinance.

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At their regular meeting held on January 22, 2009, the Planning and Development Commission held a public hearing on the proposed rezoning of two parcels of property located within an area bounded by the I-75 Business spur, Three Mile Road, I-75, and 289<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In this area, there were two parcels where the zoning remained residential. This is an area that the Planning staff felt should be zoned as B-3 as are the adjacent parcels of property within this described area. The proposed rezoning would address these two remaining residential parcels within this area. This is consistent with the City's Master Plan. No objections were raised at the Planning and Development Commission's public hearing on this matter.

The Mayor opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public therefore the following action was taken:

Moved by Commissioner Bauer, supported by Commissioner Burton

### **ORDINANCE NO. 506-09**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 10-1.03. (301A), CHAPTER X OF THE SAULT STE. MARIE CODE AND TO ADD ONE NEW SUBSECTION THERETO WHICH NEW SUBSECTION SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS 10-1.03(301A) 193 OF SAID CODE.

THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 10-1.03 (301a) of Article 1 of Chapter X of the Sault Ste. Marie Code shall be amended by adding a new subsection thereto, said subsection to read as follows:

10-1.03 (301a) 193. The following described property shall be rezoned from R-1, One-Family Residential to B-3, General Business the property described as follows;

Two areas of R-1 zoning remaining in that part of Section 13, T47N, R1W lying south of the centerline of West 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue (also described as the South 1/16th Line of said Section 13) and westerly of I-75 Business Spur as shown on the enclosed map so that the entire area bounded by I-75 Business Spur, the centerline of West 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, I-75, and Three Mile Road is zoned B-3.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after its adoption and publication.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell,  
Stefanski, and Mayor Bosbous  
Nays: None

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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FROM THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – SAULT HISTORY FESTIVAL:

A group of people have been working together to create a festival in Sault Ste. Marie relating to our history. The Chippewa County Historical Society has agreed to be a main sponsor for the event. A request has been made to the Historical Development Commission for Osborn funding to assist in the financing of this event. The requested amount was \$3,075. It was noted; however, if the Chippewa County Historical Society is successful in receiving a MCACA grant, the amount utilized would be reduced by the amount of the grant, which could be as low as \$1,025. By providing this upfront funding, commitments can be made that are necessary to go forward with this project.

The 2009 Festival has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. It is intended to hold the Festival on Water Street near the historic homes. The plans call for a fish boil, encampments, and musical entertainment on Friday evening with various encampments depicting different historic time periods occurring on Saturday.

Moved by Commissioner Stefanski, supported by Commissioner Burton

That the City Commission appropriate \$3,075 with the condition that this amount be reduced by the amount of MCACA funds received for this event.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, Stefanski, Mayor  
Bosbous, and Commissioner Bauer  
Nays: Commissioner Munsell

FROM THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY – SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE LDFA TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

In December of 2009, the City Commission established its Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), which is a prerequisite for developing the Sault Ste. Marie SmartZone. The proposed LDFA Plan assumes final designation of the LDFA as a “Certified Technology Park”. The Development Plan encompasses the same geographic area of the LDFA District, which is the entire corporate boundaries of the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

The Plan will result in the development of captured assessed value utilizing the base year of December 31, 2008 with 50% of the amounts levied by the State, pursuant to the State Education Tax Act, and local and intermediate school districts for a period not to exceed 15 years, on both eligible real and personal property within the District. These funds will be used for two primary purposes. The first would be the construction of the “technology breeder” facility at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million. The other planned use of the funds is to cover staffing and administrative services for the

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SmartZone, which would include marketing, recruitment, technology transfer, business planning assistance, and related operational expenses. The Plan also allows for the modernization of the Sault Industrial Incubator as part of this proposed Plan.

The process for approving the Development Plan and Tax Increment Plan requires that the City Commission set a public hearing, notify all other taxing jurisdictions, and place two public notices in the local newspaper. Following the public hearing, the City Commission can approve the Plan as recommended by the LDFA.

Moved by Commissioner Lynn, supported by Commissioner Bauer

That the City Commission schedule a public hearing on the proposed Local Development Finance Authority Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan for the March 16, 2009 City Commission meeting.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell, Stefanski, Mayor Bosbous, Commissioner Bauer, and Burton  
Nays: None

FROM THE DIAL-A-RIDE:

The City of Sault Ste. Marie makes application to the Department of Transportation for operating funds for the Dial-a-Ride System, which is administered by the Community Action Agency on behalf of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. In accordance with the agreement between Community Action and the City, the Community Action Agency is required to submit an Operation Plan and budget prior to March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Community Action has identified the budget for the Dial-a-Ride System for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2008. The requested City contribution to the Dial-a-Ride System for general operations would be \$92,314. This is nearly the same as the City's contribution in the current fiscal year of \$92,303. The Local Advisory Council recommends approval of the Fiscal Year 2010 requested Operating Budget for Dial-a-Ride.

It is also necessary to designate a Transportation Coordinator for Public Transportation as done each year with this program.

The Operational Plan (see Attachment "A" of Ken Stott's report) reflects the rates that were previously approved by the City Commission for the Bridge Bus. Otherwise, the Operational Plan remains the same.

Moved by Commissioner Stefanski, supported by Commissioner Lynn

That the City Commission accept the Operation Plan as outlined in Attachment "A" for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009.

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Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Lynn, Munsell, Stefanski, Mayor Bosbous,  
Commissioner Bauer, Burton, and Gerrie  
Nays: None

Moved by Commissioner Stefanski, supported by Commissioner Lynn

That the City Commission approve the Operation Budget as outlined in Attachment "B" of this report for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Munsell, Stefanski, Mayor Bosbous,  
Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, and Lynn  
Nays: None

Moved by Commissioner Stefanski, supported by Commissioner Lynn

**RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO APPLY  
FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2010 UNDER  
ACT 51 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1951  
AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act No. 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended (Act 51) it is necessary for the City of Sault Ste. Marie Dial-a-Ride established under Act 7, to provide a local transportation program for the State Fiscal Year of 2010 and, therefore, apply for State financial assistance under provisions of Act 51; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the applicant to name an official representative for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission of department for its administration of ACT 51; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to certify that no changes in eligibility documentation have occurred during the past state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the 10e(18) accessibility plan amendment for this agency has been reviewed and approved by the applicant; and

WHEREAS, the performance indicators for this agency have been reviewed and approved by the applicant; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has reviewed and approved the proposed balanced (surplus) budget, and funding sources of estimated federal funds \$63,680.00 estimated state funds \$143,877.00 estimated local funds \$92,313.59 estimated local funds (Bridge Bus)\$64,329.41 estimated farebox \$33,500, estimated other funds \$300.00, with total estimated expenses of \$398,000.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the applicant hereby makes its intentions known to provide public transportation services and to apply for state financial assistance with this annual plan, in accordance with ACT 51; and

HEREBY APPOINTS, Ronald J. Calery, as the Transportation Coordinator, for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or department for its administration of Act 51 for Fiscal year 2010.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Stefanski, Mayor Bosbous, Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, and Munsell  
Nays: None

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SAULT STE. MARIE FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND HISTROY (RIVER OF HISTORY MUSEUM) AS RELATED TO THE USE OF THE FEDERAL BUILDING AT 209 EAST PORTAGE AVENUE (NEW CITY HALL):**

The City Administration, City Attorney, and the committee of the City Commission charged with working through the issues of the relocation of the River of History Museum have been involved in various aspects of the Federal Building Renovation Project. This has included exploring various alternate locations for the River of History Museum, finding costs for the relocation of the Museum and its displays, and resolution of issues related to a modification and termination of a lease agreement between the River of History Museum and the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

On July 7, 2008, the City Commission reviewed a report of various alternatives and made the decision that the first floor of the Federal Building should be used for those offices providing the highest concentration of customer services to our citizens, which required the relocation of the River of History Museum from that space.

After that period of time, discussions occurred between the River of History Museum, the City of Sault Ste. Marie, the Chippewa County Historical Society, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and others regarding alternative locations for the River of History Museum.

On October 17, 2008, the River of History Museum agreed to explore the relocation of the Museum to 531 Ashmun Street. After this time, City staff, the consultants working for the City, and the Sault Tribe worked with the River of History Museum on determining the feasibility of utilizing the Woolworth building.

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On December 15, 2008, the City Commission approved a conceptual agreement that would allow for the termination of the lease held by the River of History Museum in the Federal Building. This draft agreement provided for a surrender date, a payment for reasonable and necessary expenses to recreate the Museum at an alternate location, and a commitment to request and utilize the additional 2% Gaming Compact payments from the Sault Tribe to assist with the payment of the lease at the Woolworth building. Mayor Bosbous and Commissioner Lynn have met with the City/Tribal Liaison Committee and were successful in obtaining the additional 2% funds in the amount of \$20,000 bi-annually, which the City can use to meet the obligation of paying these rents. If the 2% funds are discontinued in this amount from the Tribe, the City does not have an obligation to continue these payments.

In January, the Sault Tribe Construction Division developed an estimate for the relocation/recreation of the Museum in the Woolworth building. The City had obtained an estimate to relocate the Museum to the Chippewa County Historical building location from Rock and Waterscape from Auburn Hills with a cost range of \$428,000 to \$517,000. The River of History Museum earlier had obtained an estimate of \$300,000 to \$350,000 from Design Craftsmen for moving/recreating the displays at an alternate location; however, this quote did not include any lighting upgrade, AV upgrade, mechanical, electrical, or plumbing services, or handling of the artifacts. With these items added, this estimate would be substantially higher. The Tribe Construction Division has provided a not to exceed cost of \$325,000. This includes \$25,000 for a new sound system for the Museum. An estimate was attached for review. As part of this agreement, the River of History Museum would be reimbursed based on costs incurred up to an agreed upon amount. If the sound system is included, that amount would be \$325,000.00. If it is not included, it would be \$300,000.

The committee consisting of Mayor Bosbous, Commissioners Munsell and Gerrie have met and reviewed these matters. The committee did agree that a payment should be made, but did not come to a consensus as to whether the amount should be \$300,000 or \$325,000. A sound system is part of the existing Museum, but the quality is marginal. At this point there is no confirmation that the Museum Board is prepared to accept the terms of the agreement between the City and the Foundation.

In order to keep this project moving forward, it is necessary that action be taken quickly, otherwise the relocation of the Museum will be delayed and the start-up of construction in the Federal Building will also be delayed.

From a budgetary standpoint, the City Commission had initially allocated \$50,000 to address the relocation of the River of History Museum. In addition, the City Commission has designated that all rents received from the River of History Museum be utilized for the purposes of relocating the River of History Museum. It is anticipated by May 22<sup>nd</sup> that an amount of nearly \$70,000 will be available from rental payments to help offset the costs for this relocation. From a budget standpoint, if \$325,000 was included for relocating the River of History Museum in the lease termination agreement,

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then the added budgetary impact on the project would be \$205,000. This would be just under 6.8% of the total budget for the building improvements, which is estimated at \$3 million for engineering, construction, and other associated costs.

An alternative to settling with the River of History Museum is allowing the River of History Museum to remain in the building until their lease expires in July of 2010. This would delay construction until the end of the lease (and potentially longer if the River of History Museum does not vacate the Federal Building). This will also certainly cause the demise of the River of History Museum.

Commissioner Burton asked that her prepared comments be recorded in the minutes:

*"I will not support any motion to give taxpayers money in the amount of \$300,000 to \$325,000 to the River of History. I object to the notion that this payment would be for reasonable and necessary expense. Some of these costs fit neither description and are not taxpayer's obligation.*

*I seriously question even the legality of giving taxpayers money to a private foundation. Earlier, I had asked that we get an opinion from our auditor who had cautioned us a few years ago on such support of non-city entities. I have not yet seen their opinion on this issue. Our City Attorney, Steve Cannello, had informed us that the City has no liability for the museum. As a landlord, I know that one is NOT expected to pay moving expenses for a tenant. At termination of a lease, because of a just reason, I question whether or not the City would be liable for any payment for time left on the lease, as in many instances, the City has governmental immunity. This question has not been asked or answered.*

*The City initially allocated \$50,000 to assist the museum with its move. This was the quote from Weir's Moving. Then it was determined that the rent received from the museum rental would be returned to the museum at its move. That amount is \$70,000. If the City were to be liable for the money for the balance of the lease, this amount would be roughly \$60,000. The total amount of these three figures is \$180,000. But the asking price of the move and all of the cost of renovation of a building that does not belong to the City or its taxpayers is \$300,000 to \$325,000! Our Mayor told me that this figure would include some pretty sophisticated hand-held electronics.*

*It seems to me, that this falls in the category of want, not need. Recently, the Bayliss Public Library determined that they needed air conditioning to make the facility more comfortable for its users. They needed approximately \$100,000 for this project and they held a public fundraiser and raised enough money to pay for the update. The Foundation that owns and controls the museum could very well hold its own fundraiser for the additional \$120,000 to \$145,000 for its electronics, etc. A bank could loan them these funds, as they also stand to get \$20,000.00 bi-annually, from 2% funds. That is \$40,000 per year! None of our other historical groups receive this kind of funding.*

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\$800,000 over the 20 year agreement.

*As a City Commissioner, I took an oath of office to protect the City. The City IS its taxpayers, and I do not believe that City taxpayers, especially in this time of dire economic times, has any business committing taxpayer's money to a private group. The City itself is in no position to offer a "stimulus package" to any privately owned entity. If we have funds to provide work, then we need to repair the properties that belong to the City, such as our own Historic Homes, that need fixing, or the pot holes in our streets, and on and on. I see this expenditure of taxpayer money as illegal. Some of our taxpayers are already having a difficult time to make a living, and we, as a City have not yet held budget sessions and do not know what kind of State or Federal Funds that we may be receiving. We have not held a vote on this issue to see if taxpayers are willing to spend their tax dollars to underwrite a private museum. I cannot and I will not support the issue."*

*City Attorney Steve Cannello responded to Commissioner Burton's comments and concerns over the legality of the City of Sault Ste. Marie using taxpayer money for this expenditure. City Attorney Steve Cannello informed the Commission that the \$300,000.00 - \$325,000.00 would be considered an early payout for termination of the existing lease agreement with the River of History Museum. If the Commission wishes to have the River of History vacate the premises at 209 East Portage Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie prior to July 2010 than the Commission would need to reach an agreement with the River of History Museum to have the River of History modify and terminate the existing lease with the City of Sault Ste. Marie and vacate the premises prior to July 2010.*

Moved by Commissioner Gerrie, supported by Commissioner Lynn

That the City Commission offer a Modification and Termination Lease Agreement with the Sault Ste. Marie Foundation for Culture and History with the surrender date of May 22, 2009 a payment of up to \$325,000 for moving and recreating the River of History Museum in the former Woolworth building, and providing an amount equal to the 2% payments received to cover the lease expense for a period of up to 20 years, unless those payments to the City of Sault Ste. Marie are suspended or reduced by the Sault Tribe.

Carried: Yeas: Mayor Bosbous, Commissioner Gerrie, Lynn, and Stefanski  
Nays: Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Munsell

AUTHORIZATION OF THE SALE OF THE RECYCLING BUILDING TO  
NORTHERN TRANSITIONS, INC.:

At the October 6, 2008 City Commission meeting, the Commission provided preliminary approval of the sale of the Chippewa County Recycling Center building to Northern Transitions, Inc. for an amount of \$310,000. Northern Transitions' offer for

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purchasing this building was contingent upon Northern Transitions, Inc. securing an acceptable long-term lease agreement with Chippewa County for the purpose of housing the County's recycling operation in the foreseeable future.

On Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> the Chippewa County Commission authorized a long-term lease agreement with Northern Transitions, Inc. for continuing to house the Chippewa County recycling operations in its existing location in the Industrial Park. With this agreement, Northern Transitions, Inc. would like to go forward with the purchase of the recycling center and land from the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

It was indicated in the SmartZone application that was approved by the State of Michigan that the proceeds from the sale of this building would be designated towards the construction of the "technology breeder building" that will be part of the SmartZone development. If the Commission proceeds with this sale, it is the City Manager's recommendation that these funds be reserved for that specific purpose.

Moved by Commissioner Bauer, supported by Commissioner

That the City Commission authorize the City Attorney and City Manager to execute the sale of the recycling building located on Lot 2 and the west half of Lot 3 in the Industrial Park Plat to Northern Transitions, Inc. for an amount of \$310,000 with the City paying the customary seller closing costs for this transaction.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell, Stefanski, and Mayor Bosbous  
Nays: None

Moved by Commissioner Bauer, supported by Commissioner Burton

That the City Commission place the proceeds from this sale in a reserved account for the construction of a "technology breeder building" that will be built in conjunction with the City's new SmartZone.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell, Stefanski, Mayor Bosbous, and Commissioner Bauer  
Nays: None

#### DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL 2009 MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST GRANT APPLICATION:

The 2009 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant applications are due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. These grant funds are provided on a 75% state / 25% local basis. Applications committing a higher percentage of local funds to a project do receive a higher score in the evaluation process.

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In reviewing the status of various projects that have been identified in recreational plans, administration took a look at two logical projects for this funding. The first project considered was the Sherman Park Phase II Campground Improvements. The Phase II Project relocates the 24 rustic campsites to facilitate other developments in later phases of the Sherman Park Campground Plan. The other significant part of this project is that a separate driveway would be built for the campground, which would eliminate some of the issues currently relating to the gate for all of Sherman Park as it relates to campers staying in the campground.

The second project looked at was the development of a trail along the old South Street corridor at Ashmun Bay Park. Upon reviewing this project with the MDNR Grant Coordinator, administration was advised that this would not be a strong application if the City does not own the land that is necessary to accommodate this trail at the time of application. The City has two current grants from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund to acquire a strip of property that South Street is located on or near as well as a second grant for the acquisition of the entranceway to Ashmun Bay Park off of W. Portage Avenue.

The third option looked at was not making any application for grants at this time. With the fact that the City currently has four DNR grants currently open (the two land acquisition grants, Rotary Island, pending a grant agreement from the DNR, and a Coastal Zone Management Grant, pending a contract from the DNR, it would certainly not be unreasonable to pass on this round of funding. The grant agencies do look at grants recently issued, and there is an attempt to make sure that grant funds are "spread around" various communities. Each of these grants requires a significant local match, and the City certainly has some uncertainties about the economy for Michigan and the United States that will directly impact the City's ability to pay for and finance these types of improvements. On the other hand, often-times a project is submitted several times before it's funded. This is what happened to Rotary Park, which got funded on the second application. If this is the case, it may make sense for the City to get an application in requesting 75% funding for the \$545,000 project. If this application were made, the state grant amount would be \$508,700 and the local match would be \$136,300.

In the 2006 Citizen Survey, Sherman Park was ranked #1 from residents when asked to rank the nine recreational areas for funding priority. The Community Services Board will be considering this on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The purpose regarding this for tonight's meeting is to discuss this issue.

The Commission discussed the Sherman Park Master Plan in general and made the following individual comments/suggestions: 1) concerns with the location of the basketball and volleyball courts, horseshoe pits may be an alternative 2) provide larger campsites and 3) concerns with the noise that carries over into Lakeshore Subdivision.

#### CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPEN LABOR

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## CONTRACTS:

The City Attorney, Human Resources Director, and City Manager Nebel have had negotiations with the United Steelworkers of America Local 13635. City Manager Nebel recommended that the City Commission go into a closed session to discuss negotiations with the Fire Captains and DPW. If the Fire Captains' agreement is satisfactory to the City Commission, City Manager Nebel recommended that the City Commission reconvene into open session to approve a contract with the Fire Captains.

Moved by Commissioner Lynn, supported by Commissioner Munsell

That City Commission convene a closed session prior to the adjournment of the City Commission meeting to discuss negotiations.

That the City Commission convene into open session to discuss possible action on approving the contract with United Steelworkers of America Local 13635 Fire Captains Unit.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell, Stefanski, Mayor Bosbous, Commissioner Bauer, and Burton  
Nays: None

## Status Report:

### February 11, 2009 joint meeting of the Cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Ontario:

On February 11, 2009, the Second Annual Joint Meeting of the Sault Ste. Marie Ontario City Council and the Sault Ste. Marie Michigan City Commission was held. Presentations were provided by the Joint International Bridge Authority, the U.S. and Canadian Border Services and various transportation initiatives and community projects on both sides.

Both cities conceptually agreed to sponsor the Second Annual Family Fun Night for December 31, 2009.

Resolutions of support were passed by both Councils urging the Canadian government to consider passing legislation allowing for a ten year passport versus Canada's requirement to renew passports every five years. This would facilitate border crossing by Canadian residents.

The Joint Twin Saults Meeting will be rebroadcast through Charter Communications on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

### Goal setting session on Monday, February, 23, 2009:

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On Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. the City Commission will hold its annual Goal Setting Session as one of the prerequisites to preparing a recommended budget for the Commission's consideration for the fiscal year that will begin July 1, 2009 and end on June 30, 2010. The meeting will be held at the Housing Commission Community Building located at 609 Pine Street.

2008 United Way Campaign:

Annually, the employees of the City of Sault Ste. Marie participate in the voluntary United Way Fund Raising Campaign. This is an employee coordinated effort. This year, City employee Tom Swanson and his wife Stacy Swanson co-chair the 2008 United Way Fund Drive for the United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. In addition, Commissioner Don Gerrie served as President during the 2008 Campaign and Valerie Povey has since assumed duties as President of the United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

The total funds contributed or pledged for the fall 2008 Campaign by employees was \$10,910. This exceeded the amount contributed last year of \$10,198 and is the highest contribution level we have ever had for the United Way.

For purposes of an internal challenge, the employees divide themselves up into four units (DPW, Police, Fire, and City Hall), and City Manager Nebel offered a contribution to that group of employees who exceed the challenge that was placed for the 2008 Campaign. This year, our top performers were the Fire Hall employees who contributed \$4,940 in this year's campaign. This was an increase of over \$1,000 from the 2007 year. Congratulations to the Fire Department for meeting their goal. City Manager Nebel thanked the employee committee consisting of Tom Swanson, Ken Eagle, Dave Strickland, Valerie Povey, Mike Darling, Tom DePlonty, and John Cole.

With the challenging economic times, the dollars raised for United Way will be available to assist those with significant needs during the 2009 year.

**MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC:**

None

**MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION:**

Commissioner Stefanski asked if there could be additional patrols in the Southside for overnight and on-street parking.

Commissioner Burton commented on the condition of a section of Ashmun Street.

Commissioner Bauer made reference to the walkability audit and questioned the

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current water fund budget.

Commissioner Munsell asked for a report on snowmobile use within the City and a report on stimulus package.

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION:**

Moved by Commissioner Lynn, supported by Commissioner Stefanski

That the City Commission convene to closed session at 8:22 p.m..

Carried:       Yeas: Mayor Bosbous, Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, Lynn,  
                  Munsell, and Stefanski  
                  Nays: None

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bosbous at 8:56 p.m.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH THE FIRE CAPTAINS UNIT:**

City Attorney Cannello gave a brief overview of the changes to the Fire Captains labor contract as negotiated between both parties.

Moved by Commissioner Lynn, supported by Commissioner Munsell

That the City Commission approve the contract with the Fire Captains unit.

Carried:       Yeas: Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell,  
                  Stefanski, and Mayor Bosbous  
                  Nays: None

Moved by Commissioner Lynn, supported by Commissioner Stefanski

That the meeting adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ANTHONY G. BOSBOUS, MAYOR       ROBIN R. TROYER, CITY CLERK**

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