

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 1, 2010 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:

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

Mayor Bosbous announced I-500 week in Sault Ste. Marie

Presentation on 2010 "White Out Campaign"

Moved by Commissioner Stefanski, supported by Commissioner Burton

That the City Commission allow the placement of white ribbons along Portage Avenue for the 2010 White Out Campaign.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Commissioner Stefanski requested that agenda 2B7 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Commissioner Stefanski, supported by Commissioner Burton

That the following consent agenda items be approved:

#### **Minute Approval:**

That the minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held on Monday, January 18, 2010 be approved as written and circulated and the minutes of the following boards and commissions received and placed on file:

- a. Bayliss Public Library – December 22, 2009
- b. Community Services Board – January 12, 2010
- c. Existing Structures Board of Appeals – November 2, 2009
- d. Historical Development Commission – January 5, 2010
- e. Planning and Development Commission – December 3, 2009
- f. Police and Fire Pension Board – January 20, 2010
- g. SSM Housing Commission – December 11, 2009

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h. Zoning Board of Appeals – November 19, 2009

Appointments and Resignations:

That the City Commission reappoint John Boger to the Building Authority for a term to expire January 1, 2014.

That the City Commission reappoint Robert Aldrich to the Ethics and Conduct Board for a term to expire December 17, 2012.

That the City Commission reappoint Deidre Stevens to her first full term on the Historical Development Commission, which will expire on December 31, 2016.

That the City Commission confirm the Mayor's appointment of Sherry Brooks (LSSU nominee) and Tom Veum to the LDFA Board for terms that will expire December 31, 2014.

That the City Commission confirm the Mayor's appointment of Leslie Lynn Smith as the ex-officio member from the MEDC to serve on the LDFA Board.

That the City Commission confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Lori Clarke to the Local Officer's Compensation Commission for a term to expire October 1, 2014.

That the City Commission confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Jim Cooper to the Seal Estate Board of Trustees for a term to expire July 1, 2011.

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

Agenda Item 2B7:

City Manager Nebel informed the Commission that in order for an applicant to be appointed to the Tax Assessment Board of Review they must be a registered voter of Sault Ste. Marie. It was realized prior to the meeting that Lou Lundquist was not a registered voter in Sault Ste. Marie; therefore, Mr. Lundquist did not qualify for appointment to the Tax Assessment Board of Review. City Clerk Troyer will follow up with Mr. Lundquist regarding his voter registration.

Moved by Commissioner Burton, supported by Commissioner Stefanski

That the City Commission reappoint Rod Salder to the Tax Assessment Board of Review for a term to expire 1/1/2014.

Carried: Yeas: Commissioner Bauer, Burton, Gerrie, Lynn, Munsell,

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Stefanski, and Mayor Bosbous  
Nays: None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**STEERE ISLAND PROTECTION:**

At the January 5, 2010 meeting of the Historical Development Commission, the HDC heard a presentation from Mr. Ken Miller regarding the preservation of structures and remains on Steere Island. Mr. Miller has concluded that the Steere cabin is structurally in good condition considering that the structure has no doors or windows and has been open to the elements for many years. The HDC is expressing great concern regarding the continued preservation of the structures and ruins on Steere Island.

During the discussion it was noted that "No Trespassing" signs ought to be posted surrounding these historic areas. In addition, it may be appropriate that a fence be installed surrounding the Steere cabin to deter island visitors from entering the premises or vandalizing the cabin. In the Lower River Islands report, there were a number of recommendations relating to Steere Island, including the installation of a pedestrian bridge from Rotary Island to Steere Island to make these locations accessible to the general public. There was also discussion about interpreting the various ruins as well as utilizing the Steere cabin in the future. The most significant concern, at this point, is to prevent vandalism or damage from occurring to both Judge Steere's cabin as well as some of the other ruins that are located on the site.

The HDC took action to recommend to the City Commission that the City take steps to stabilize and preserve the Steere Island structures and ruins as well as post "No Trespassing" signs and install fencing to deter visitors from entering the premises or vandalizing the cabin.

City Manager Nebel believes there is merit to these recommendations and would suggest that the Commission consider exploring ways in which to better protect these historic assets. If the Commission concurs, administration will develop budget cost figures for accomplishing the fencing and give some thought to how the City might be able to post the island to protect the remains of buildings and sites that once populated Steere Island.

While it is certainly going to be a number of years before the City would likely be in a position where they could move forward with the plans for constructing a pedestrian bridge and creating access trails and interpretations on Steere Island for the public, it is important that the City maintain the assets that are in place at this time.

Moved by Commissioner Burton, supported by Commissioner Gerrie

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That the City Commission request costs for fencing the Steere cabin and a future report and recommendation on how best to sign the island to protect the historic sites located there.

Motion carried unanimously.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY CLERK REGARDING APPOINTMENT TO THE  
CHIPPEWA COUNTY ALLOCATION COMMITTEE:

The fixed millage for Chippewa County will expire at the end of 2010. By law, the County Allocation Board must hold a meeting on the third Monday in April to review the current allocation and propose any adjustments to that allocation for future tax levies.

The County Allocation Board includes a member of the Sault Ste. Marie City Commission or one of its officers. In the past, both Commissioners and appointed staff have served in this capacity. City Manager Nebel recommended that if there are any members of the Commission interested in serving in this capacity that the Commission appoint one of the elected members to fill this position. If no Commissioners are available for this, then the Commission could appoint administrative staff to this position.

Moved by Commissioner Munsell, supported by Commissioner Lynn

That the Commission appoint City Manager Nebel to serve on the Chippewa County Tax Allocation Board, as requested by Chippewa County.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE EXECUTION OF A LICENSE  
BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY FOR ACCESS  
THROUGH FEDERAL PROPERTY (UPPER BRADY PARK) TO CONSTRUCT A  
TEMPORARY ENTRANCE GATE FOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD DURING THE  
WATER STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT:

One of the most constricted points of access during the reconstruction of Water Street will be in regards to the U.S. Coast Guard Base entrance. City Engineer Dave Strickland has had numerous discussions with the U.S. Coast Guard Base and the Corps of Engineers along with the American Legion in looking at a temporary entrance for the Coast Guard during certain stages of the Water Street reconstruction. By temporarily relocating the entrance to the Coast Guard Base, the City will be able to minimize the expenses and down time for the contractor, since the City will not need to maintain access to the main gate during certain critical parts of the construction of the

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utilities in Water Street in front of the Coast Guard entrance. All costs related to this temporary access will be part of the CSO Project.

Administration appreciates the cooperation of the Coast Guard, Legion, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in making this alternative temporary access possible.

Moved by Commissioner Stefanski, supported by Commissioner Bauer

That the City Commission authorize the execution of a license between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the U.S. Department of Army for a temporary entrance to the Coast Guard property during the Water Street Reconstruction Project.

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

AUTHORIZATION OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE AQUISITION  
OF CITY OWNED LAND AT THE N.W. CORNER OF RYAN AND WEST 12<sup>TH</sup>  
AVENUE:

Administration has had an inquiry from Hospice of the E.U.P. regarding the acquisition of property located at the northwest corner of Ryan and W. 12th Avenue between the Locey Ballfield and the Sault Housing Commission housing area. Administration has provided estimates of value to Hospice for this site in accordance with the authorization from a previous Commission meeting regarding this possible transaction.

In most recent discussions with Hospice, administration indicated that there would be a basis for a recommendation from City Administration to sell this property at a residential rate of \$24,500 (\$100 /ff x 245') for this site. Hospice has indicated that they have had several offers of property in Kinross and St. Ignace for this home. They do not believe they are in a position to pay this amount of money for this site.

As an alternative, administration indicated that they could ask the City Commission to request formal proposals for the sale of this property. The acceptance of these proposals would be considered based on both the proposed development and the requested purchase price for this site. The City Commission would then be able to make a decision on the sale of this property after going through an open proposal process. The City Attorney has advised that if an open process is used, then the City Commission could award based on the overall proposal submitted for the sale of the property, which could include a price under our own valuation for these sites. This would address any legal issues in selling this property to Hospice for an amount under what administration consider the value of this site.

This would be an open process, so others could submit proposals for the

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development of this site as well. City Manager believes at this point, this would be a reasonable way to proceed with this request. Because this will be an open process, there is some risk to Hospice that others may bid, and the City Commission could consider another bid. City Manager Nebel has shared this with Hospice and they are comfortable with this.

Moved by Commissioner Bauer, supported by Commissioner Stefanski

That the City Commission authorize a Request for Proposals to be issued on the sale of City-owned land at the northwest corner of Ryan and W. 12th Avenue.

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

#### Status Reports:

##### 2010 US Census Activity Timetable:

City Manager Nebel updated the City Commission on the 2010 US Census Activity timetable.

##### EDC Audit:

The EDC Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 was presented to the Commission.

#### **MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC:**

None

#### **MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION:**

Commissioner Munsell had a call from a mailman regarding a snowmobile on South Street that ran him off the road into the ditch. Commissioner Munsell also indicated while cross country skiing snowmobiles were riding down the railroad tracks.

Commissioner Bauer has also received complaint calls from the Easterday Avenue area regarding snowmobiles.

Commission Stefanski informed the Commission of the upcoming fund raising event between the Hiawatha Skating Club and Soo Eagles Hockey team on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the Pullar for the Kelsey Raffaele and Kim Rogers.

Mayor Bosbous informed the Commission of the MichCanSka 2010

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Snowmobiling for a Cure.

Commissioner Gerrie thanked Roger Parr and Steve Ewing for their volunteer efforts at this past weekend's Kaines Classic, asked City Manager Nebel to inform the citizens of the garbage burning and dog feces ordinance for the City. Commissioner Gerrie also inquired about the possibility of sanding and salting at the intersection of Ryan and Sheridan and the walkability audit in reference to Easterday Avenue.

Commissioner Lynn asked about the City Task Force that was established back in 2003 to evaluate the long term financial trends of the City and to make recommendations as to how the City should pro-actively address financial issues.

Moved by Commissioner Lynn, supported by Commissioner Stefanski

That the meeting adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ANTHONY G. BOSBOUS, MAYOR**

**ROBIN R. TROYER, CITY CLERK**

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