

**City of St. Ignace  
Council Proceedings  
(Official)**

A Regular Meeting of the St. Ignace City Council was held on Monday, January 24, 2022, in the City Hall Council Chambers as a hybrid attendance meeting, with Zoom video conference available.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor LaLonde, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Williford gave the invocation.

**PRESENT FROM CITY COUNCIL:** Councilmembers Cronan and Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, and Councilmember Williford.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Clapperton.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Darcy Long, City Manager; Stephanie Baar, Assistant to the City Manager; Tony Brown, Police Chief; Al Mitchell, Police Sergeant; Scott Marshall, DDA Director; Bill Fraser, DPW Director; Alycia McKowen, Library Director; Charles Palmer, City Attorney (Zoom); Andrea Insley, City Clerk/Treasurer (Zoom).

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Pelter—Discussion of Information Received by Council

Mayor LaLonde—Excuse Councilmember Clapperton & Committee appointments

**LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2022 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, THE JANUARY 18, 2022 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, AND THE JANUARY 18, 2022 CLOSED SESSION:**

It was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, seconded by Mayor LaLonde, to approve the minutes from January 10, 2022 and January 18, 2022 as written.

**Roll Call Vote**

Yes: Councilmembers Williford, Cronan, and Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, and Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. PAY RAISE—ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF**

City Manager Long explained that the Assistant Fire Chief's pay raise is usually authorized via the annual pay resolution, but that was not passed by the Council for the year 2022. It was moved Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Cronan, to approve a 2.5% pay raise for Assistant Fire Chief Matt Bowlby, in the amount of \$75.02.

### **Roll Call Vote**

Yes: Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, Councilmembers Williford, Cronan, and Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, and Councilmember Pelter.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **B. DOCK 3 USE—DUMPSTERS**

City Manager Long discussed the issue of dumpsters being stored at Dock 3. Councilmember Cronan brought up his concerns about the delayed response to this issue and the legal use of the property. He read a letter he suggests be sent to the involved parties at Dock 3.

Councilmember Fullerton expressed concern at disallowing that use of Dock 3, and proposed a Dock 3 committee meeting to work towards a solution.

CEO/Owner Veronica Dobrowolski, attending via Zoom, stated that Arnold Freight is willing to work with the City to come to a solution.

Mayor LaLonde offered that the City will organize a Dock 3 committee meeting with all interested parties.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. LIBRARY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

Library Director Alycia McKowen presented the Council with the Library Board's 2022 Strategic Action Plan and their 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. She explained that these were created using information they received from a community survey they conducted.

Councilmember Pelter noted the library's variety of events and the willingness of people to travel to attend them. The Council thanked Director McKowen and the Library Board for their hard work and commended their efforts.

### **B. MICHILIMACKINAC PROJECT UPDATE—BILL PEEK**

Bill Peek, President of the Michilimackinac Historical Society, presented the Council with updated conceptual designs for the Michilimackinac building downtown. COVID hurt their fundraising, but they are working with the MEDC and InvestUP on grant opportunities. Council agreed to have the City Manager provide a letter of support. Work is expected to be completed in Fall of 2023. Council thanked Mr. Peek for his work, and commended the progress that has been made thus far.

### **C. PURCHASE UTILITY LINE LOCATOR**

DPW Director Bill Fraser explained the need for purchasing a new utility line locator. He presented the Council with quotes from three separate companies, and asked for permission to purchase from Heath Consultants.

It was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Cronan, to approve the purchase through Heath Consultants.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Yes: Councilmember Pelter, Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, Councilmembers Williford, Cronan, Fullerton, and Mayor LaLonde.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS—SECTION 32-56, PARKING VIOLATIONS & FINES**

City Manager Long presented code amendments to the Council to increase the City's fines for parking violations as had been discussed in the 2022 budget meetings.

It was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, seconded by Councilmember Cronan, to move forward with the changes and schedule a public hearing.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Yes: Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, Councilmembers Williford, Cronan, and Fullerton.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

**E. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION TRAINING OVERNIGHT STAY—OFFICER ROGERS**

Chief Brown asked the Council to approve the overnight accommodations for Officer Rogers to attend his requested Criminal Investigation training. Chief Brown informed the Council that it is within their training budget.

It was moved by Councilmember Fullerton, seconded by Councilmember Cronan, to approve Officer Rogers' overnight accommodations.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Yes: Councilmember Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, Councilmembers Williford and Cronan.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

**F. EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER CRONAN—02/07, 02/21, 03/07, 03/21**

Mayor LaLonde asked that the Council vote to excuse Councilmember Cronan from the Regular Council meetings of February 07, February 21, March 07, and March 21 of this year due to him being out of town.

It was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Mayor LaLonde, to excuse Councilmember Cronan from the Regular Council meetings of February 07, February 21, March 07, and March 21, 2022.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Yes: Councilmembers Cronan and Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, Councilmember Williford.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

**G. RESOLUTION—POLICE DEPARTMENT COVID PREMIUM PAY**

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION TO DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH ESSENTIAL WORKER PREMIUM PAY UNDER AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

The following Resolution was offered for adoption by Councilmember Pelter, supported by Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis:

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the U.S. Senate amended H.R. 1319 (P.L. 117-2) known as the American Rescue Plan Act “ARPA”; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 10, 2021, the U.S. Treasury issued the Interim Final Rule to implement ARPA in Title 31, Part 35 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”); and

**WHEREAS**, under the Interim Final Rule, recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds “CSLFRF” to provide premium pay to eligible employees who performed essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. See CSLFRF Frequently Asked Questions No. 5.3; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council will provide premium pay to Members of Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) employees who performed essential work as permitted by the Final Rule, in accordance with City Charter, Ordinances, and other applicable agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has identified personnel who serve on the frontlines and encountered the risks associated with exposure to COVID-19 first-hand when providing critical health and public safety services to the citizens in our community on a regular basis, during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, those personnel are employees of the City in the St. Ignace Police Department, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, Premium Pay of \$1,750, a one-time payment that will not have retirement accounted for in this payment will be paid in February 2022 in one or two separate payroll checks. Employees will have the choice to split the payroll into two distributions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council does hereby direct the City Manager's Office to budget in the 2022 Budget this Authorized COVID Premium Pay in the appropriate budget for each employee.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Yes: Councilmembers Cronan and Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, and Councilmember Williford.

No: None.

Absent: Councilmember Clapperton.

Resolution declared Adopted.

**H. BUDGET AMENDMENTS—CREATE A SEPARATE ARPA FUND**

City Manager Long presented budget transfers that would put all ARPA expenditures into one separate fund, per discussion with Clerk-Treasurer Insley.

It was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, seconded by Councilmember Cronan, to approve the budget amendments and creation of a new ARPA fund, with the addition of the approved ARPA ambulance expenditure.

Councilmember Pelter asked for clarification about the transfers. City Clerk-Treasurer Insley, via Zoom, explained the process further.

**Roll Call Vote**

Yes: Councilmembers Williford, Cronan, and Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, and Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**Councilmember Pelter—Discussion of Information Received by Council**

Councilmember Pelter expressed concern that a violation of MCL 423.501-512 Bullard-Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act occurred. She would like to see the situation addressed by the City Manager, and if an investigation is needed, she would like for it to be internal, not left to outside attorneys.

It was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Williford, that the City Manager immediately address this situation in a confidential and appropriate manner to reduce City liability going forward.

Councilmember Williford shared his concerns with the situation. Attorney Palmer expressed his need to review the situation further before he gives any advice on the matter. He also agreed to further research the Dock 3 situation.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Yes: Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, Councilmembers Williford, Cronan, and Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, and Councilmember Pelter.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Mayor LaLonde—Excuse Councilmember Clapperton**

It was moved by Councilmember Fullerton, seconded by Councilmember Cronan, to excuse Councilmember Clapperton from the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Mayor LaLonde—Committee Appointments**

Mayor LaLonde presented Council with proposed committee appointments:

Construction Board of Appeals: Ken Brown, Jeff Cryderman, Paul Sved, Steven Paquin, Joe St. Louis, Bob Marshall, Larry Belonga

Zoning Board of Appeals: Kayla Pelter, Luke Paquin

DDA: Cheryl Schlehuber, Andrea Green, Barb Yshinski

Library Board: Bonnie Ledy

Events Review Committee: Willie LaLonde, Bill Fraser, Mike Williford, City Manager, Chief of Police

It was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, seconded by Councilmember Williford, to approve the committee appointments as recommended.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Yes: Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, Councilmembers Williford, Cronan, and Fullerton.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF BILLS**

It was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Cronan, to approve paying the bills as presented.

AIRGAS USA LLC	\$162.35
BAM TOOLS	\$211.00
BAY UP NORTH LLC	\$311.90
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MI	\$1,990.40
CITY OF ST. IGNACE	\$43.14

DETROIT SALT COMPANY	\$18,236.96
DETROIT SALT COMPANY	\$28,315.54
DETROIT SALT COMPANT	\$12,385.09
FERGUSON WATERWORKS	\$61.83
JACKLIN STEEL SUPPLY CO.	\$390.20
KSS ENTERPRISES	\$274.98
MACKINAC PLUMBING & HEATING CO.	\$5925.00
MACKINAC PLUMBING & HEATING CO.	\$136.05
MICHAEL RICHARD LAMB	\$45.00
MICHAEL RICHARD LAMB	\$45.00
MORAN TOWNSHIP	\$28.20
MORAN TOWNSHIP	\$56.16
NCL OF WISCONSIN INC.	\$2332.10
NICK MONTIE	\$99.99
OTIS ELEVATOR CO.	\$42.46
PUBLIC AGENCY TRAINING COUNCIL	\$525.00
SPARTAN STORES	\$34.02
ST. IGNACE TRUE VALUE	\$472.86
STATE OF MICHIGAN	\$180.00
SYNCB/AMAZON	\$165.98
SYNCB/AMAZON	\$69.90
SYNCB/AMAZON	\$15.88
TES FESTERLING LLC	\$389.24

**TOTAL 73,010.52**

#### **Roll Call Vote**

Yes: Councilmember Fullerton, Mayor LaLonde, Councilmember Pelter, Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis, Councilmembers Williford and Cronan.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Attorney Palmer gave his opinion that committee meetings are not subject to the Open Meetings Act as long as they are merely advisory and there is not a quorum of the Council present. City Manager Long informed the Council that he has been working with the DDA Director and DPW Director on improvements to the boardwalk and remaining work for the Little Bear East Park Project. Chief Brown informed the Council of the training grants they have received and expressed his desire to host training courses at LBE. DPW Director Fraser

discussed the need for a new plow-truck and Council agreed to work with DPW as needed to get a purchase approved.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

St. Ignace Area-Emergency Medical Services (SIAEMS)-December minutes were included in Council packets for review. City Manager Long updated Council on the status of the SIAEMS's building project and their new ambulance.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilmembers thanked those who attended the meeting, wished Councilmember Cronan a good trip, and commended DPW for their snow removal efforts. Councilmember Pelter expressed that City employees can approach the Council with issues, but Council must refrain from interfering in day-to-day operations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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**William LaLonde, Mayor**

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**Stephanie Baar,  
Assistant to the City Manager**