

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

A Regular Meeting of the St. Ignace City Council was held on Monday, March 4, 2024, in City Hall Council Chambers as a hybrid attendance meeting with Zoom video available. Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance followed. Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson led the invocation.

PRESENT FROM CITY COUNCIL: Councilmember Eyre, Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson, Councilmembers Litzner, Pelter, Shepard and Williford.

ABSENT: Mayor LaLonde. It was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Litzner, to approve excusing Mayor LaLonde from the meeting due to being out of town. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Marshall, City Manager; Charles Palmer, City Attorney; Andrea Insley, City Clerk/Treasurer; Kevin James, Police Chief; Brooklynn Schlehuber, Administrative Assistant; Matt Bowlby, Assistant Fire Chief; Kurt Ney, Golf Course Manager.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT *(3-min limit)*

No public comment was offered.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING:

It was moved by Councilmember Litzner, seconded by Councilmember Eyre, to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2024 Regular Council meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS

A. CHERRY CAPITAL FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

City Manager Marshall introduced representatives with Cherry Capital Fiber Optic Network to present Council with their plans to build a fiber optic network through St. Ignace beginning in May 2024. Cherry Capital has been a telephone company in Michigan for over 24 years and is based out of Elk Rapids, MI. In addition to the project through St. Ignace, they have been contracted to build and operate 95 miles of fiber optic line for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians from St. Ignace to Sault Ste. Marie.

Cherry Capital requested Council's consideration in the near future for a 15-year bilateral agreement through the Metro Act.

B. POLICE VEHICLE PURCHASE

City Manager Marshall informed Council that the Police Department considered four different vehicles for the purchase of their next patrol vehicle to replace the 2017 Ford Taurus. Mackinac Sales provided a quote for a 2024 Ford Explorer for \$44,860; Enterprise Fleet Management quoted a monthly lease payment of \$953 for a 2024 Ford Police Interceptor; Newberry Motors

quoted \$46,252 for a 2023 Dodge Durango; and Lunghamer Ford offered a 2024 Ford Police Interceptor available through MiDeal for \$43,955.

Chief James also provided two financing options for three years, one from Central Savings at 6.12% and one from First National Bank at 5.925%.

City Manager Marshall reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the vehicle proposals and the financing options on February 28th and made the recommendation to purchase the Explorer from Mackinac Sales and financing from First National Bank.

It was moved by Councilmember Eyre, seconded by Councilmember Litzner, to approve the purchase of the Ford Explorer from Mackinac Sales for \$44,860 with financing from First National Bank for three years with the interest rate of 5.925%.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson, Councilmembers Litzner, Pelter, Shepard, Williford and Eyre.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT REPAIR

City Manager Marshall requested Council's approval to send three mowers in for repair for the Golf Course, so they will be returned in time for the course to open for the season. Golf Course Manager Kurt Ney collected estimates for the repairs totaling \$40,051 from Spartan Distributors, which exceeds the budget of \$12,500. The Finance Committee reviewed this information at their meeting February 28th and recommended repairing all three mowers, then monitoring the revenues throughout the season to determine if the expenses could be covered. Manager Ney noted that Spartan Distributors offered to invoice the expense over three to four months with no interest. If needed, the Golf Course's CD was also presented as support for the expenses. It was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Shepard, to approve repairing the three mowers with Spartan Distributors for \$40,051, noting the expense will be considered from revenues first and from the CD, if necessary.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Councilmembers Litzner, Pelter, Shepard, Williford, Eyre and Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL RECOGNITION

Matt Bowlby, Assistant Fire Chief, read aloud the names of the current volunteer firefighters to Council to recognize their service to the Fire Department.

E. 2024 STREET PAVING PROJECTS

City Manager Marshall informed Council that DPW Director Fraser and the Street Committee had met to review seven proposed paving projects totaling a cost of \$443,210. Director Fraser requested Council's approval to put bids out for the projects for the 2024 season.

It was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Williford, to approve bidding out the paving projects as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Councilmembers Pelter, Shepard, Williford, Eyre, Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson and

Councilmember Litzner.
No: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

F. SALTY MAC BREWING COMPANY, LLC AMENDED RESOLUTION 24-05

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR SALTY MAC BREWING COMPANY, LLC LIQUOR LICENSE

The following Resolution was offered for adoption by Councilmember Pelter, and supported by Councilmember Eyre:

WHEREAS, the City of St. Ignace, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was established pursuant to Act 197 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1975, and with City of St. Ignace Ordinance Number 465 effective November 28, 1981; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Ignace established the St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority District as its "Redevelopment Project Area" as required in Public Act 501 of the Public Acts of 2006, Section 521A(1) of the Michigan Liquor Control Code of 1998, being MCL 436.1521A(1)(b) by resolution of the St. Ignace City Council at its regularly scheduled City Council meeting of March 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority has recommended by resolution adopted at their regularly scheduled DDA meeting of November 10, 2023, that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission issue a Class C liquor license under the provisions of Section 521A(1)(b) of the Michigan Liquor Control Code of 1998, being MCL 436.1521, to Salty Mac Brewing Company, LLC which is located within the St. Ignace DDA District Redevelopment Project Area at 180 North State Street and that said issuance would prevent further deterioration and promote economic growth within the DDA District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of St. Ignace concurs with the findings of the Downtown Development Authority and recommends that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission issue a Class C liquor license under the provisions of Section 521A(1)(b) of the Michigan Liquor Control Code of 1998, being MCL 436.1521 to Salty Mac Brewing Company, LLC at 180 North Street, St. Ignace, Michigan.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Councilmembers Shepard, Williford, Eyre, Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson, Councilmembers Litzner and Pelter.

No: None.

Absent: Mayor LaLonde.

Resolution declared Adopted.

G. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES

City Manager Marshall informed Council that after reviewing his research of municipalities that broadcast meetings electronically, he recommends using YouTube as a platform to make the City Council meetings available to residents online. In addition, City Manager Marshall requested Council's approval to amend the Council Rules and Procedures by removing "or

virtually” from Section F. Public Comment/Public Hearing to reflect the decision from the prior meeting to eliminate virtual public comment.

After brief discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Shepard, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson, to approve updating the Council Rules and Procedures as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson, Councilmembers Litzner and Shepard.

No: Councilmembers Williford, Eyre and Pelter.

Motion failed to pass, three to three.

H. ASSESSOR CONTRACT RENEWAL

City Manager Marshall reviewed the current contract between the City and UP North Assessing Inc. and the proposed renewal, increasing the annual salary from \$36,000 to \$38,400, with a term from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. The Finance Committee also reviewed the proposed contract renewal at their meeting March 7th and recommends accepting the terms. It was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Williford, to approve renewing the contract with UP North Assessing Inc. through June 30, 2026, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yes: Councilmember Eyre, Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson, Councilmembers Litzner, Pelter, Shepard and Williford.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF THE BILLS

Amazon Business	February 2024 Statement	\$562.06
Andy's Feed Station	Uniform Boots/Propane	\$283.70
Arrow Signs	Speed Limit Signs	\$125.00
BAM Tools	Water Plant Tools/Specialty Drill Bit Set	\$208.60
BC Pizza	LBE Concession	\$170.00
Belonga Plumbing and Heating	Plant Parts	\$178.60
C2AE	Water Grant Professional Services	\$1,500.00
Carrier & Gable	Marina Hardware Kit	\$43.00
ETNA	Water Line Parts	\$131.00
Gordon Food Service	LBE Concession	\$176.34
Grainger	Water Plant Parts/Uniform Boots/Safety Wear	\$964.46
Hawkins Inc	Water Plant Supplies	\$3,419.86

KSS	Trash Bags	\$323.90
Lakeside Equipment Corp	WWTR Service Rotating Screen	\$3,500.00
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	SIPD Citation Support 4 Devices	\$572.00
Mackinac County Treasurer	Fold & Stuff Assessment Notices	\$147.64
Meyer Ace Hardware	February 2024 Statement	\$1,091.26
Michigan Association of Planning	Planning & Zoning Workshop- Brooklynn Schlehuber	\$130.00
Michigan Township Association	FOIA Webinar - Scott Marshall	\$40.00
MissDig	Annual Membership Fee	\$1,494.01
National Office Products	February 2024 Statement	\$666.01
Nick Montie	SIFD Fuel Reimbursement	\$109.00
North Central Laboratories	Water Plant Glass Beaker	\$78.66
Pitney Bowes	Postage Machine Lease	\$407.94
Postmaster	Annual Permit Fee	\$320.00
Spartan Nash	February 2024 Statement	\$335.77
St Ignace Visitors Bureau	Independence Day Fireworks	\$5,000.00
Straits Building Center	February 2024 Statement	\$320.48
Wilk Wiring	SIFD Explorer Outfitting	\$465.00
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		\$22,764.29

It was moved by Councilmember Litzner, seconded by Councilmember Pelter, to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$22,764.29.
Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT *(3 min limit)*

Public comment was received commending the City DPW department for their clean-up efforts.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

City Manager Marshall provided a written report to Council, as well as, discussed the following:

- Meeting with City Manager to discuss blight and ordinance enforcement.
- Chief Wawatam Park plans for erosion.

- Crosswalk tools for visibility.
- Michigan Broadband progress meeting.
- Grant writing committee.
- Spring clean-up.
- Fort de Buade inspection.
- Wage increases for Fire Department volunteer firefighters.
- Social district build and dog park concept.
- 44 North health insurance proposal will be presented to City employees on Monday, March 11th.

COMMITTEE REPORT

City Manager Marshall reported the Finance Committee is reviewing the proposed Water-Sewer Rate Study again at their next meeting March 13th.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember comments were received.

CLOSED SESSION PER MCL 15.268(C), *For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.*

At this time, Mayor Pro-Tem Gustafson stated that Council has requested to go into Closed Session, per MCL 15.268(C) and will not be making any further decisions on this subject matter after they have returned to open meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Williford, seconded by Councilmember Pelter, to enter into Closed Session at 9:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Council returned from Closed Session at 9:51 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Donald Gustafson, Mayor Pro-Tem

Andrea Insley, City Clerk/Treasurer