



## Proceedings of the Ironwood Planning Commission Wednesday September 4, 2013

---

A Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 in the Conference Room #1, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood, Michigan.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Bergman called the meeting to Order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Recording of the Roll:

MEMBER	PRESENT		EXCUSED	NOT EXCUSED
	YES	NO		
Bergman, Thomas	X			
Burchell, Bob	X			
Cayer, Joseph Sr.	X			
Davey, Sam	X			
Geib, Courtland	X			
Lemke, Joseph	X			
Johnson, Leroy		X	X	
Semo, Rick, ex-officio, non-voting member	X			

Also present: Community Development Director Michael J.D. Brown. In the audience, Eric Fitting.

3. Approval of Minutes:

**Motion** by Davey to approve August 7, 2013's Minutes. **Second** by Cayer. **Motion carried 6 to 0.**

4. Approval of the Agenda:

**Motion** by Davey to accept the Agenda. **Second** by Lemke. **Motion Carried 6 to 0.**

5. Citizens wishing to address the Commission regarding Items on the Agenda (three-minute limit):

None

6. Citizens wishing to address the Commission regarding Items not on the Agenda (three-minute limit):

None

7. Items for Discussion and Consideration:

- 7a. PC Case 2013-009 Accessory Buildings in R-2 District: Director Brown explained that currently the square footage of accessory buildings in the R-2 District are limited to 900 square feet. Because of another matter that has come forward with apartment garages, 900 square feet is unreasonable. Director Brown wanted direction from the committee about recommending language to discuss for changing the ordinance to allow for adequate garage space for apartments. Director Brown also inquired about changing part of the sentence in the ordinance defining accessory buildings to include sheds.

The committee decided that 900 square feet is too small and directed Director Brown to set a public hearing on changing the Accessory Building wording. The Committee also decided to leave the wording for accessory buildings in the R-2 district as defined in 34-73(1)(b), and not change it to include the word sheds.

- 7b: Consideration of PC Case 2013-010 Property Purchase Request on Ayer Street Property (Fitting)

Director Brown explained that Eric Fitting (in audience) wanted to buy the property next to his on Ayer Street for additional storage sheds. This property is currently on the Surplus Property List. Cayer stated that from his memory, there was some kind of issue with this property, and he thought that about ten years ago, folks fought against storage units going into that area because they did not create jobs. Also, it was brought up that Ottawa Forest Products may have an interest in the property. Director Brown attempted to reach Ottawa and invite them to tonight's meeting and discuss their interest, if any; however, was not able to reach them.

**Motion** by Cayer to recommend to sell the property to Eric Fitting. **Second** by Davey. **Motion Carried 6 to 0.**

- 7c: Consideration of Selection of Planning Consultant.

Director Brown stated that Rick Semo, Tom Bergman, Scott Erickson and himself interviewed four firms for writing the comprehensive plan. After discussion, this group decided the HGki was the firm they would recommend that the Planning Commission to hire and to also recommend this to the City of Ironwood Commissioners. Director Brown said that this firm came in prepared; had many examples of non-boiler plated comprehensive plans and their references were excellent. Director Brown and others who sat on the interview committee said that HGki has very involved public participation and also has repeat business.

**Motion** by Cayer to recommend to the City of Ironwood Commissioners that HKgi be hired to write the comprehensive plan. **Second** by Davey. **Motion Carried 6 to 0.**

8. Project Updates

Regional Trail – The construction is on hold until next year.

Director Brown said that there is a class coming up "Michigan Citizen Planner" at Gogebic Community College and that they need a few more students to make this class a reality. He stated that Kim Coon is going as well as Leroy Johnson. Cayer said that short of a health issue, he would also enroll. Director Brown stated that he would get Johnson and Cayer enrolled.

9. Other Business: None

10. Next Meeting: October 2, 2013, 5:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment:

**Motion** by Cayer to adjourn the meeting. **Second** by Davey. **Motion Carried 6 - 0.**

Adjournment at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

---

Thomas Bergman, Chairman

---

Kim M. Coon, Community Development Assistant