

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on March 26, 2012 at 5:30 P.M. along with public hearings at 5:20 P.M. and 5:25 P.M. in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood, Michigan.

1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M.
2. Public Hearing: To hear comment relative to an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption application filed by Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. for 1243 Wall Street, Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 & East 1/2 of Lot 11 of the Industrial Park.

Dave McDonald, from Jacobs, McDonald & Silc addressed the City Commission stating Mr. Baxter (owner of Ottawa Forest Products) was present and this is an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (IFT). The IFT is a 50% tax reduction for a twelve (12) year period. The IFT applies to both personal property and real property. Mr. McDonald thanked Mr. Baxter for his commitment to the community in preserving 40 plus jobs in hopes to create new jobs. He further stated Ottawa Forest Products would not be up and running until the end of April. Further discussion of this matter took place.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M.
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1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M.
2. Public Hearing: To hear comment on submitting a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund to be used for the development of the Regional Non-motorized Trail.

City Manager Erickson addressed the City Commission stating every year the DNR has a Trust Fund Grant Application period and this year's application is due by April 2, 2012. Manager Erickson further noted a group is working hand and glove with the DNR to acquire right-of-away for a non-motorized trail from Hurley over to Wakefield. He further stated they are working with the DNR to establish a motorized trail for the same area. Mr. Erickson noted the next step would be to get the grade prepared and paved for a multi use non-motorized path. The grant request is essentially to clear the grade and pave the trail from the Hurley border to the easterly border in the City of Ironwood as part of the Regional effort.

The grant is in the amount of no more than \$300,000.00 and requires a 25% local match of \$75,000. Mr. Erickson stated the Convention and Visitors Bureau has committed \$70,000 in match funds toward this grant and the City would need to come up with the remaining \$5,000. City Manager Erickson stated the timber sale should generate approximately \$38,000 in revenue and the \$5,000 could come out of those funds with City Commission approval. This project would have a 2013/2014 start date. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Don Maki, of 132 Smith Street addressed the City Commission stating the non-motorized trail is a non-essential service and felt this money should be put into infrastructure and streets before any non-essential money is spent.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:35 p.m.
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- A. Mayor Corcoran called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:35 P.M.
- B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Cayer, Semo, Shackelford, Tauer, and Mayor Corcoran.

ABSENT: None.

- C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.*

*1) Approval of Minutes – March 12th Regular City Commission Meeting.

- *2) Review and Place on File.
 - a) Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency Meeting Minutes of February 16th.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- D. Receive and Place on File from the Finance Director.
 - 1. Statement of Revenue & Expenditures.
 - 2. Monthly Cash Reports.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Tauer and carried to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures for the month ending February 29, 2012 and to approve the Monthly Cash Reports dated February 2012. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- E. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Tauer, seconded by Shackelford and carried to amend the agenda to include item K1. Discuss and consider Resolution #012-085 a resolution to maintain streetscape improvements along Business Route 2 (BR2).

- F. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).

Sam Davey, of 260 E. Cloverland Drive addressed the City Commission updating them on item H. and N. Mr. Davey stated the Convention and Visitors Bureau is providing the match over the next four (4) years not only for Ironwood but also Bessemer and Wakefield through the tax they collect for advertising.

Commissioner Cayer questioned if the other municipalities were on board. Mr. Davey confirmed other municipalities were on board.

Commissioner Semo commented on how a diverse group of City Officials, law enforcement, and others have been working on the acquisition of the Regional Motorized and Non-motorized Trail for the past two (2) years.

Mr. Davey also mentioned upgrades to Curry Park's electrical is needed and it is a good project for the Michigan DNR Passport Grant.

The City Commission discussed maintenance of these trails. Further discussion of these matters took place.

OLD BUSINESS

- G. Consider approving Application for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption filed by Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. for 1243 Wall Street, Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 & East 1/2 of Lot 11 of the Industrial Park. (Resolution #012-081).

Motion was made by Shackelford, seconded by Semo to approve Resolution #012-081 a Resolution approving the application for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption filed by Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. for 1243 Wall Street, Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 & East 1/2 of Lot 11 of the Industrial Park. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- H. Consider Resolution #012-082 approving submittal of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Trust Fund to be used for the development of the Regional Non-motorized Trail.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford to approve Resolution #012-082 approving submittal of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Trust Fund to be used for the development of the Regional Non-motorized Trail with \$70,000.00 match being obtained from the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the \$5,000 match from the City of Ironwood Timber Sale. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- I. Discuss and Consider approval of USDA Rural Development Funding application for Phase III (Revised) Water & Sewer.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford to approve the USDA Rural Development Funding application for Phase III (Revised) Water & Sewer. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- J. Discuss Asset Disposal Policy.

No action was taken.

- K. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution #012-083 for the MDOT Downtown Enhancement Grant.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford to approve Resolution #012-083 for the MDOT Downtown Enhancement Grant adding the word "current" before design. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- K1. Discuss and consider Resolution #012-085 a resolution to maintain streetscape improvements along Business Route 2 (BR2).

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford to approve Resolution #012-085 a resolution to maintain streetscape improvements along Business Route 2 (BR2). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- L. Discuss and Consider awarding Bid for the 2012 Capital Improvement Street Bonds.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford and carried to grant Commissioner Cayer's request to abstain since he is a stockholder in the Gogebic Range Bank.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Tauer to award the Bid for the 2012 Capital Improvement Street Bonds to Gogebic Range Bank as recommended by City Staff. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- M. Discuss and Consider approving modified work plan for the CDBG Downtown Enhancement Project.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford and carried to approve the modified work plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Downtown Enhancement Project.

- N. Discuss and Consider Resolution #012-084 approving Application to Michigan Natural Resources Recreational Passport Grant for Curry Park.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford to approve the Application to the Michigan Natural Resources Recreational Passport Grant for Curry Park with the 25% local match to be split between funding from the Timber Sale and Department of Public Works "in kind" services for building of the gravel pads. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- O. Manager's Report.

City Manager Scott B. Erickson verbally gave the manager's report noting the following items:

- *The Ironwood Area School District is holding a special meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the District Library. The Ironwood City Commission and Township Boards have been invited to attend at the Ironwood High School.
- *Cemetery Mowing bids for a three year park mowing contract will be reviewed and presented for the next regular meeting.
- *MDOT has initiated their study of the three Downtown traffic signals. The signals will be on flash for approximately 90 days.

*The Hemlock Street Phase I (Norrie Street to Arch Street) project have been bid out by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The low bidder was Ross Peterson.

*Contract negotiations with Ironwood Public Safety Union and AFSCME Union are scheduled for Wednesday, March 28th.

*The Community Development Director position is being re-advertised with a deadline of April 12th.

P. Other Matters (Five Minute Limit).

Mayor Corcoran questioned if bulk water rates were proposed to the City of Hurley.

Commissioner Shackelford questioned where the money was going from not having a Community Development Director.

Commissioner Semo requested now that the snow has disappeared the City concentrate on Blight. City Manager Erickson suggested Commissioner Tauer meet with Building Inspector Dennis Hewitt and Code Enforcement Officer Jason Alonen.

Q. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda (Five Minute Limit).

Don Maki, of 132 Smith Street addressed the City Commission questioning the electric bill and the over budget of the Carnegie Library. Finance Director Linn explained to him the computer system only allows the first name of the departments being charged but the electric bill is for the whole City. He further stated that the Carnegie Library does not get their penal fines until the end of the fiscal year but the penal fines of approximately \$45,000 will be posted at a later date.

R. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Shackelford and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 P.M.

Kim Corcoran, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk