

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 5:30 P.M., along with a Public Hearing at 5:25 P.M., in the City Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood.

1. Mayor Burchell called the public hearing to order at 5:25 P.M.
2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Cayer, Corcoran, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Burchell.
ABSENT: None

3. Public Hearing: To hear comment on Ordinance No. 522, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Article 1. Marihuana Establishments, Sec. 36-6 changing the sunset date to September 1, 2020.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman explained to the City Commission and those present the opt out ordinance changing the sunset date.

4. Mayor Burchell closed the Public Hearing at 5:32 P.M.

A. Mayor Burchell called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:32 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Cayer, Corcoran, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Burchell.
ABSENT: None

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.*

*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of February 24th.

*2) Review and Place on File:

- a. Ironwood Carnegie Library Board Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2020.
- b. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority (DIDA) Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2019 & January 23, 2020.
- c. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2020.

Motion was made by Cayer, seconded by Corcoran to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

D. Approval of the Agenda

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Joni Moore, Owner of Ottawa Innovations, from Marquette, Michigan addressed the City Commission stating she was a Plant Scientist and owns two (2) cannabis companies. She also stated she made a presentation to the Planning Commission regarding Ottawa Innovations and offered to do a presentation for the City Commission. She further stated Crystal Falls recently granted 10 grow licenses.

Jeffrey Barker, an attorney and others expressed their concerns on the number of processors and felt the City of Ironwood would be potentially sued if they did not have a clear process for deciding on who would get licensed. Additional comments were received.

Martin Celeski, of 258 E. Harding urged the City Commission to adopt Ordinance No. 522 without the sunset date and totally opt out. He wanted the City Commission to adopt Nancy Reagan's slogan for the war on drugs, "just say no". Additional comments were received.

- F. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda (Three Minute Limit)

David Ward, of 205 S. Curry Street expressed his dismay with the City of Ironwood for denying his request to purchase the property next door to him to build a garage. He further stated that he was told the City of Ironwood does not have an appeal process.

OLD BUSINESS

- G. Consider Ordinance No. 522, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Article 1. Marihuana Establishments, Sec. 36-6 changing the sunset date to September 1, 2020.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Corcoran to adopt Ordinance No. 522, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Article 1. Marihuana Establishments, Sec. 36-6 changing the sunset date to September 1, 2020. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- H. Discuss and Consider approving Ordinance No. 523, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, City of Ironwood, Michigan by adding a new chapter which new chapter shall be designated as Chapter 37 of said Code entitled "Marihuana Establishments".

Commissioner Mildren felt that this ordinance should go for a vote of the people. Mayor Burchell noted she struggles with cannabis edibles "food" being produced but not tested for food safety. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to adopt Ordinance No. 523, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, City of Ironwood, Michigan by adding a new chapter which new chapter shall be designated as Chapter 37 of said Code entitled “Marihuana Establishments” with one change there be a 500 ft. buffer around the Library.

ROLL CALL:

Yes (2): Commissioner Semo and Corcoran.

No (3): Commissioner Mildren, Cayer, and Mayor Burchell.

Motion failed on a 3 to 2 vote.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to adopt Ordinance No. 523, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, City of Ironwood, Michigan by adding a new chapter which new chapter shall be designated as Chapter 37 of said Code entitled “Marihuana Establishments” with the 500 foot buffer around the Library along with including Ayer, Lawrence, McLeod, Marquette Street down to the Montreal River.

ROLL CALL:

Yes (2): Commissioner Semo and Corcoran.

No (3): Commissioner Mildren, Cayer, and Mayor Burchell.

Motion failed on a 3 to 2 vote.

Mayor Burchell asked if someone would entertain approving the Ordinance with only 2 retail, 2 growers for each class, 2 safety and compliance, but without the microbusinesses. After a brief discussion the City Commission felt that there were too many changes and staff needed to make the changes and bring it back to a public hearing at the Planning Commission level for recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS

- I. Discuss and Consider approving ballot language to renew the one mill for continued operation, support, and maintenance of the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for a period of four years from 2021-2024.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve the ballot language to renew the one mill for continued operation, support, and maintenance of the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for a period of four years 2021-2024, as follows.

“PROPOSAL TO RENEW OR CONTINUE THE PREVIOUS ONE MILL, (1.0) 2017-2020 FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION, SUPPORT, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PAT O'DONNELL CIVIC CENTER FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) YEARS FROM 2021-2024, INCLUSIVE:

SHALL THE LIMITATION ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TAXES WHICH MAY BE ASSESSED AGAINST ALL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF IRONWOOD BE INCREASED ONE (1) MILL (\$1.00-1 MILL PER \$1,000 FOR STATE TAXABLE VALUATION) FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) YEARS, 2021-2024 INCLUSIVE, THE TAXES TO BE RAISED TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PAT O'DONNELL CIVIC CENTER. (THIS IS THE MILLAGE RATE THAT HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FROM 2005 AND REPRESENTS A RENEWAL OF THE MILLAGE, RATHER THAN AN INCREASE)."

Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

J. Discuss and Consider authorizing and awarding mechanical repairs to Pomasl Fire Equipment, Inc. for Tower #99 (IPSD Ladder Truck) in the amount of \$21,550.10.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Cayer to authorize and award the mechanical repairs to Pomasl Fire Equipment for Tower #99 (IPSD Ladder Truck) in the amount of \$21,550.10. *Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

K. Discuss and Consider authorizing bids for leak detection services for the municipal water system.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer and carried to authorize bids for leak detection services for the municipal water system. *Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Manager's Report.

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

- *Effective last Thursday the City of Ironwood has implemented the Seasonal Load Limits for City of Ironwood roadways following Gogebic County.
- *City staff and Civic Center Board members met last week with representatives from the Insurance company as well as the insurance companies' architect and project managers regarding the layout, design and timing for the construction of the permanent Civic Center Building.
- *Last week City Staff, City Commission representatives, and our consulting engineers conducted a tour of a new manganese water treatment facility in Cloquet, MN. The engineers from Short Elliot Hendrickson (SHE) are currently working on the preliminary engineering report and anticipate having the report completed in May 2020.
- *MDOT opened bids for the third phase of the Iron Belle Trail construction from the City of Bessemer to the City of Ramsey. The apparent low bidder for this project is Ruotsala Construction.
- *AFSCME Union contract negotiations will be starting this week.
- *Internal budget meetings are being held this week with all City Departments. This is for the preparation and development of the draft 2020-21 City budgets.
- *The spring community clean-up event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 8-11:00 a.m. at the Ayer Street lot next to the Ironwood Dance Company Building.

M. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren felt we were blessed since the insurance company allowed the skating programs to continue by constructing the dome.

Commissioner Semo felt the visit to Cloquet, MN was very informative and is just what the City of Ironwood needs to build.

Commissioner Mildren also expressed the need for a joint meeting with professionals and officials to discuss how to protect our senior citizens.

N. Consider Closed Session to discuss AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement negotiations.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to enter Closed Session to discuss AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement negotiations at 6:47 P.M. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

O. Return to Open Session.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Mildren and carried to return to open session at 7:10 P.M.

P. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Mildren and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 P.M.

Annette Da Lio-Burchell, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk