

## **Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting**

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held by a Zoom Webinar on Monday, May 26, 2020 at 5:30 P.M.

A. Mayor Burchell called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:30 P.M.

Mayor Burchell requested that Commissioner Cayer be excused from tonight's meeting due to a work conflict.

***Motion** was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to excuse Commissioner Cayer from tonight's meeting. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Corcoran, Semo, Mildren, and Mayor Burchell.

ABSENT: Commissioner Cayer.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.\*

\*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting of May 11<sup>th</sup>.

\*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of March 10<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>.

b. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Meeting Minutes of May 5<sup>th</sup>.

***Motion** was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo 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 Mildren to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

E. AUDIENCE: Kate Beer, Health Officer/Administrator, Western UP Health Department  
(RE: COVID-19)

Kate Beer, Health Officer/Administrator for the Western UP Health Department updated the City Commission stating Gogebic County still has the 5 positive cases and that there were 2 new cases in Houghton County. Ms. Beer noted that the State is working on expanding testing and that the Western UP Health Department is working on 1) Developing a testing strategy and 2) the ability to do contact tracing. She further stated that Aspirus Grand View Hospital is a testing facility for our area, and anyone can get tested. Ms. Beer also urged everyone to continue to wash their hands, wear masks, practice 6 ft. social distancing, and only attend gatherings with 10 or less people (stay outdoors with the nice weather). Additional comments were received.

F. Update on COVID-19 Response.

Public Safety Director Andrew DiGiorgio mentioned that Public Safety has been working with local businesses for reopening and continue to provide citizens with masks. Public Safety is also helping citizens who are in need of services during this time of need.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman stated that the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority has been busy accumulating business applications for a \$50,000.00 grant for assistance funds that will become available at the end of June. Mr. Bergman also noted that later this week he will be attending a zoom meeting with the Director for the Federal Reserve and he will try to get the City Commission included in this meeting.

City Manager Erickson updated the City Commission stating the City will be opening the Memorial Building on June 15. He also mentioned that City Staff has developed a plan for reopening the various parks throughout the City of Ironwood.

City Commissioner Corcoran questioned if any outside departments would be losing funding such as ITC and part of the Community Development department. City Staff responded stating those departments/organizations have already gone through their budgets and are being funded.

G. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.
2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

***Motion*** was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending April 30, 2020 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report month ending April 30, 2020. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

H. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

***Motion*** was made by Corcoran, seconded by Mildren to approve the Monthly Check Register Report for the month ending April 30, 2020. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

Commissioner Mildren requested it be clarified that there were 13 panelists in the zoom meeting along with 4 additional attendees for a total of 17.

## OLD BUSINESS

- K. Discuss and consider awarding the lowest bid for the demolition of two (2) commercial properties located at 224 and 230/234 E. McLeod Ave. to Ruotsala Construction, LLC in the amount of \$126,376.80.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo to award the lowest bid for the demolition of two (2) commercial properties located at 224 and 230/234 E. McLeod Ave. to Ruotsala Construction, LLC in the amount of \$126,376.80. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- L. Discuss and consider approving a cost of living increase for non-union employees.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve the cost of living increase for non-union employees.*

### *ROLL CALL:*

*Yes (3): Commissioner Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Burchell.*

*No (1): Commissioner Corcoran.*

***Motion** carried on a 3 to 1 vote.*

### M. Manager's Report.

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

- \*Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) and Coleman Engineering, are working on completing the preliminary engineering study for the Water Pump Station & Filtration Plant project. The study is anticipated to be completed and presented to the City Commission at the June 22, 2020 City Commission Meeting.
- \*The Civic Center rebuild project is moving forward and the dome structure is planned to be deflated and removed as soon as four non-rain days are in the forecast.
- \*Ayer Street by the High School as well as the Post Office area will be getting some concrete repair work with the street paving occurring in mid-June.
- \*The City Water Department has been working with the State EGLE and Health Department Staff to coordinate the spring water main flushing program which is scheduled to begin on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- \*The Downtown Square Project bids were opened last week, and Ruotsala Construction was the low bidder.
- \*The Downtown flower baskets will be put out the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \*Another Budget Work Session is being scheduled for Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

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

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to enter closed session at 6:37 p.m. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

O. Return to Open Session.

***Motion*** was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to return to open session at 6:52 p.m. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

P. Other Matters.

Mayor Burchell reflected on yesterday's Memorial Day Holiday....a quiet day, with no parades or large gatherings honoring our fallen soldiers due to COVID-19. She reminded us that we are called to always remember the sacrifices people have made for our freedom, and to remember today's warriors as well....military, health care and other essential workers everywhere who put themselves into harm's way to save lives and help others.

She thanked the American Legion, veterans' organizations & auxiliary volunteers, the City's public works department and our lawn service contractor and workers for their efforts in beautifying and decorating our city and Riverside Cemetery before the holiday weekend, showing our respect and remembrance (albeit quietly this year) for fallen heroes and loved ones.

Mayor Burchell expressed her gratitude to our community at large, reminding everyone that community is defined by the presence and engagement of our constituent residents and businesses. Amongst the many great Ironwood businesses, Mayor Burchell thanked Jacquart Fabric Products for their presence in our community and for repairing the large U.S. flag that is draped on the facade of the cemetery mausoleum for the holiday.

Commissioner Semo had a few questions for City Staff from the Virtual 1<sup>st</sup> Friday and several complaints he received regarding marijuana odors.

Commissioner Mildren also stated at the previous City Commission meetings the residents did not like marijuana odors in residential areas.

Commissioner Corcoran requested an update of the Comprehensive Plan and thanked the citizens for being patient during the COVID-19. She also mentioned that the parks would be open soon.

Commissioner Semo thanked the Mayor for her comments on Memorial Day. He also thanked City Staff for helping area businesses.

Q. Adjournment.

***Motion*** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.  
*Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Annette Da Lio-Burchell, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk