

## Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission and a Budget Public Hearing was held by a Zoom Webinar on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 5:25 P.M. and 5:30 P.M.

1. Mayor Burchell opened the public hearing at 5:28 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

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

ABSENT: None.

3. Public Hearing: To hear comment relative to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Proposed Budget and the Schedule of Rates for City Services.

Finance Director/Treasurer Paul Linn reviewed with the City Commission the comparison between the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget and the fiscal year 2020-2021 proposed budget. Mr. Linn noted that while the City will see a small increase in taxable values, revenue sharing and Act 51 street revenue from the State of Michigan will decrease due to the downturn in the economy (largely due to the coronavirus pandemic). He also explained that many of the projects originally budgeted in the 2019-2020 budget will be carried forward to the 2020-2021 budget. Mr. Linn indicated that there is no change in the proposed property tax millage rates, administration fee, and late penalty fee.

Commissioner Cayer questioned City Staff regarding the proposed water and sewer rate increase. Mr. Linn explained that the increase is in accordance with a City Commission resolution passed in 2008, which identified the need for rate increases to reflect inflationary increases to maintain water and sewer operations. The resolution states that water and sewer rates be adjusted annually in accordance with changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a 2.5% increase for 2020-2021. Further discussion of the various funds and proposed fee schedule changes took place.

Rick Sauermilch, of 134 S. Curry Street addressed the City Commission expressing his dismay with the Public Safety budget, indicating he would like to see police activities separated from the fire activities. He also said that he would like to see officers trained in the area of mental health. Additional comments were received.

4. Mayor Burchell closed the public hearing at 5:47 P.M.

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A. Mayor Burchell called the regular meeting to order at 5:47 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

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

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Burchell applauded everyone who exercised their democratic rights to peacefully protest against racism and advocate for the black community. She urged everyone to look deep within themselves to individually and collectively as one human community to listen and learn how to best effect change to achieve a more equitable world. Mayor Burchell requested that a task force be initiated to address these important concerns. Mayor Burchell noted it will be a collaborate effort to process and evaluate all aspects of our city services and the City will make sure they are all on point with the needs of our community and they respect all citizens equally. She also urged those who are interested to contact her or the City Clerk if they are interested in serving on this task force.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.\*

\*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of May 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Meeting Minutes of June 1<sup>st</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 Cayer, seconded by Corcoran to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

E. Update on COVID-19 Response.

Public Safety Director DiGiorgio stated as we continue to move forward the County and City continue to open more and more, and the Public Safety continues to work in helping area businesses with their re-opening plans.

Finance Director/Treasurer Paul Linn stated that he had received good information from the Treasury Department on specifically Revenue Sharing and Act 51 as the State goes through finalizing their budget.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman noted he should be hearing about the MEDC Match on Main Grant to see if we will be funded for our downtown businesses. He further stated Community Development continue to work with area businesses on their re-opening.

City Manager Erickson noted to the City Commission that the park and play structures will be opening soon along with other parks. Curry Park will be opening July 1<sup>st</sup> after safety measures have been put in place. He also mentioned that the Memorial Building staff continue to put in place many safety measures for a safe opening with the public on Monday.

Commissioner Mildren urged citizens to check on Facebook before reaching out to area businesses to find out their hours of operation so they are not disappointed.

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

Rick Sauermilch, of 134 S. Curry Street addressed the City Commission expressing his dismay again with the budget and requested more information on the separation of police and fire funds. He felt that there should be more money spend on health care not police. Additional comments were received.

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

Chandra Moreno, of E5147 Sunset Rd. addressed the City Commission stating she is excited about the task force being created. She also stated she is for defunding some of the police force and felt there should be more mental health services. Additional comments were received.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- H. Review and Consider Resolution #020-005 approving an Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 including Budget establishment of the 2020-2021 Millage rates for City Services and authorizing the collection of a 1% Tax Administration Fee and adopt the 2020-2021 Fee Schedule.

*Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to adopt Resolution #020-005 approving an Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 including Budget establishment of the 2020-2021 Millage rates for City Services and authorizing the collection of a 1% Tax Administration Fee and adopt the Fee Schedule.*

### **ROLL CALL:**

Yes (4): Commissioner Corcoran, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Burchell.  
No (1): Commissioner Cayer.

*Motion carries on a 4 to 1 vote.*

- I. Discuss and Consider awarding the lowest bid to Ruotsala Construction in the amount of \$1,220,858.42 for the Downtown City Square Project, contingent upon receiving authorization to award by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo to award the lowest bid to Ruotsala Construction in the amount of \$1,220,858.42 for the Downtown City Square Project, contingent upon receiving authorization to award by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- J. Discuss and Consider awarding bid for the installation of touchless faucets in all City of Ironwood facilities to Future Plumbing in the amount of \$14,670.00.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Cayer to award the bid for the installation of*

*touchless faucets in all City of Ironwood facilities to Future Plumbing in the amount of \$14,670.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

K. Discuss blight debris removal at 205 N. Curry Street (Tax ID #52-22-253-050).

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo to remove the blight debris at 205 N. Curry Street (Tax ID #52-22-253-050). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

L. Discuss & Consider approving request from the Ironwood Theatre, Inc. to defer their monthly lease payment of \$702.50 (consider 6-month extension).

*Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Mildren to approve the Ironwood Theatre, Inc. request to temporarily postpone the monthly lease payment of \$702.50 for a period of six (6) months and extend the term of the lease for the same amount of time. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

M. Discuss and Consider approving water meter reading contract extension.

*Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer to approve the water meter reading contract extension for one (1) year with a 2% adjustment. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. Discuss and Consider approving outside seating policy for commercial establishments.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Cayer to approve the outside seating policy for commercial establishments. 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:

- \*Manager Erickson noted the zoom meeting is approved until the end of June at the next regular meeting there will be a presentation on the preliminary study for the Water Pump Station & Filtration Plant Project and it will be held in the auditorium on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- \*The Pat O'Donnell Civic Center dome is currently down and is waiting for delivery of the new building.
- \*The Ayer Street sidewalk curb and gutter is currently being replaced along with pedestrian crosswalks.
- \*The Spring flushing program is finishing up.
- \*City Commission did approve 2 out of the 3 commercial buildings be demolished and are currently working toward getting their environmental remediation complete.
- \*The Water Leak Detection Company will be in town next week.

P. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren commented to Chandra and Rick that he believes their purpose in speaking up and when we have had people marching outside of the Memorial Building it is to

stop hatred in the world. He further stated the murder of George Floyd is going to affect the moral compass of everyone for many years to come.

Commissioner Corcoran requested to bring back the marijuana ordinance, the blight list, and the comprehensive plan. She thanked Public Safety for their work and wants to be part of the task force.

Commissioner Semo thanked everyone and applauded the idea of the task force.

Commissioner Cayer had a question for staff reading water meters. City Staff urged everyone to get their readings to the City offices as soon as possible.

Mayor Burchell stated she recognizes that the national focus has been on COVID-19 and racism awareness and protests. As she mentioned she is forming a task force, but she would be remised if she did not mention and give voice to another important message in the month June for equality. Mayor Burchell then re-proclaimed and re-recognized the month of June 2020, as did our Governor Gretchen Witmer, as LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) Pride month in Ironwood.

Q. Consider Closed Session to discuss AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement Negotiations.

*Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to enter closed session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement negotiations. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

R. Return to Open Session.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to return to open session at 7:45 P.M. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

S. Consider action on AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement with the City of Ironwood.

No action was taken.

T. Adjournment.

*Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 P.M. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Annette Da Lio-Burchell, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk