

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission along with a Public Hearing was held in the Auditorium of the Memorial Building on Monday, June 22, 2020 starting at 5:20 P.M.

1. Mayor Burchell opened the public hearing at 5:20 P.M.
2. Recording of the Roll.

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

3. Public Hearing: To hear results of preliminary engineering study/feasibility report for the construction of a Water Treatment and Water Pumping Station facility and for the submittal of a State of Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan application.

Christopher Larson from SEH reviewed with the City Commission the Water Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Report. Mr. Larson noted the following options to remove manganese from the water; concrete gravity filter water treatment plant; steel gravity filter water treatment plant; pressure filters; new wells or connect to the Gogebic Range Water Authority (GWRA). It was also mentioned that the Gogebic Range Water Authority's (GWRA's) water has limited capacity and pumps approximately 125,000 gallons per day. The City of Ironwood is using 1.1 million gallons per day, which is ten times more water than what the GWRA is pumping. He further talked about the age of the City of Ironwood water system and stated a new system would be designed to best fit the City of Ironwood, along with the cost of the system. The estimated cost of a concrete gravity filter water treatment plant was 9.72 million versus a steel gravity filter water treatment plant at 10.5 million.

Jeff Sjoquist informed the City Commission that the public hearing was to hear comment on submitting an application to the State of Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund by July and the City would also submit a separate funding application to USDA Rural Development. Mr. Sjoquist also mentioned that the City of Ironwood was listed as an economically disadvantaged area and possibly would qualify for some grant funding. Further discussion of this matter took place.

4. Mayor Burchell closed the public hearing at 6:14 P.M.
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A. Mayor Burchell called the regular meeting to order at 6:14 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 of June 8th.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of June 9th.

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. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer and carried to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending May 31, 2020 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report month ending May 31, 2020.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Corcoran to approve the Monthly Check Register Report for the month ending May 31, 2020. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

G. COVID-19 Update.

Finance Director Paul Linn gave an update on COVID-19 stating the City will continue to follow the changes at the State of Michigan level regarding Act 51 money and revenue sharing.

Public Safety Director Andrew DiGiorgio noted there were a few more infections in the area and that the Public Safety Department will continue to work toward getting community wide testing for the area.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman mentioned the City of Ironwood was not successful in obtaining the grant for the “Match on Main”. Mr. Bergman mentioned the City was working with the UW Extension (Wisconsin) on an informational program to encourage people to wear masks. He also mentioned that there would be more grant funding available for small businesses through the CARES Act.

City Manager Erickson noted that Curry Park Campground is scheduled to be opened on July 1st and the Depot Park and Norrie Park restrooms would also be available to the public on July 1st.

H. AUDIENCE: Community Development Director Tom Bergman
(RE: Update on Status of Marihuana Ordinance Development and Zoning Ordinance).

Community Development Director Tom Bergman addressed the City Commission updating them on the status of the Marihuana and Zoning Ordinances. He stated there will be a work session on July 13th at 4:30 p.m. on the Marihuana Ordinance, followed by a public hearing on July 27th as option 1 or August 10th as option 2. Mr. Bergman then informed the City Commission and those present that if the City Commission approves the Ordinance on July 27th or August 10th there will then be a 90-day period before any permits will be issued. Community Development Director Bergman also noted that his department was working on getting back on track with the zoning ordinance. Additional comments were received.

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)

Justin Kasieta, an aide for Representative Markkanen addressed the City Commission stating Representative Markkanen has been busy working on getting the Michigan Works Pension liability funded by the State of Michigan in their next budget cycle. Mr. Kasieta also mentioned that if there is anything that Representative Markkanen can do for the City of Ironwood to let him know. Mr. Kasieta then requested a copy of the Engineering Study/Feasibility report for the construction of a Water Treatment and Water Pumping Station facility for the City of Ironwood. Additional comments were received.

OLD BUSINESS

K. Discuss and Consider awarding bid for a 2020 Towmaster T-30 Trailer (to haul excavator) to Pete's Trailer Sales in the amount of \$13,500.00 with 55% being funded by a USDA Disaster Relief Grant.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to award the bid for a 2020 Towmaster T-30 Trailer (to haul excavator) to Pete's Trailer Sales in the amount of \$13,500.00 with 55% being funded by a USDA Disaster Relief Grant. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

L. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #020-009 supporting Racial Justice.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to approve Resolution #020-009 supporting Racial Justice. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- M. Discuss and Consider approving Resolution #020-010 supporting the Proclamation Declaring June 2020 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Ironwood, Michigan.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve Resolution #020-010 supporting the Proclamation Declaring June 2020 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Ironwood, Michigan. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- N. Discuss and Consider approving Resolution #020-006 Amending the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to approve Resolution #020-006 Amending the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- O. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #020-007 transferring delinquent invoices for ordinance violations to the July 2020 City Tax Roll.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to approve Resolution #020-007 transferring delinquent invoices for ordinance violations to the July 2020 City Tax Roll. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- P. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #020-008 adopting a final project plan for water system improvements and designating an authorized project representative for a State of Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion was made Mildren, seconded by Cayer to approve Resolution #020-008 adopting a final project plan for water system improvements and designating and authorized project representative for a State of Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- Q. Manager's Report.

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

- *The contractors are currently working on replacing the building footings at the Civic Center to accommodate the new structure.
- *The Civic Center Dasher Board bids were opened last week, and the Civic Center Board will be meeting later this week to make a recommendation to the City Commission.
- *The environmental remediation for the two blighted commercial buildings on McLeod Avenue is currently being completed. The building demolition of 224 McLeod Ave. could begin as early as next week.
- *The water main leak detection contractor has completed their city-wide leak detection survey and will provide a detailed report identifying water main/service leak locations. A large main leak was detected on Northland Ave.
- *A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for this week for the Downtown Square project. The project contractor, Ruotsala Construction, will be starting this project later this week.

*The City of Ironwood has partnered again with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity on their work-based learning program. This is a state funded program that has been an asset to area youth.

*Pavement striping contractor will be in town this week to complete the cross walks, stop bars, and turn arrows throughout the City.

R. Other Matters.

Commissioner Cayer questioned if the City of Ironwood had received word from Gogebic County on demolishing their commercial building along McLeod.

Commissioner Corcoran thanked everyone who worked on the recent blighted home clean up and said how much it was appreciated that City Staff worked together to accomplish the cleanup.

Mayor Burchell questioned the fireworks law in Michigan.

Public Safety Director DiGiorgio stated in 2011 the State of Michigan allowed for commercial grade fireworks. He also stated public safety will first try to educate people but from June 29th to July 5th is the only time people can use fireworks according to State Law and Public Safety will only site on a Public Peace Violation.

Commissioner Semo wanted to know what feedback the City received after flushing. City Manager Erickson noted it was a two (2) week flushing period and it was very effective and residents appreciated the public notification process. Further discussion of this matter took place.

S. Consider Closed Session to discuss contract negotiations with AFSCME Local 1538.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to enter closed session at 7:08 p.m. to discuss AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement negotiations. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

T. Return to open session.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to return to open session at 7:15 P.M.

U. Consider ratification of AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement effective July 1, 2020 and expiring June 30, 2022.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to ratify the AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement for a 2-year contract (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2022), 2% salary increase each year, contract language change for new hires paying them for City holidays during their probationary period and start all new hires at the 6-month rate of pay and change the one-year rate of pay to the two-year rate of pay for new hires and existing employees. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

V. Adjournment

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Corcoran to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 P.M.
Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Annette Da Lio-Burchell, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk