

## Proceeding of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held via Zoom on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:30 P.M., along with a Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M. and a regular Public Hearing at 5:25 P.M.

1. Mayor Burchell called the Board of Zoning and Appeals to Order at 5:20 P.M.
2. Recording of the Roll.

The following members who were in attendance indicated the physical location from which they were remotely participating in the meeting were as follows: Commissioner Cayer (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Corcoran (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Mildren (City of Madison, Dane County, State of Wisconsin), Commissioner Semo (Silver City, Grant County, State of New Mexico), and Mayor Burchell (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan).

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

3. Mayor Burchell opened the Public Hearing at 5:26 P.M.
4. Public Hearing: To hear comment on a variance to Section 34-224 (Prohibited home occupations) to operate a small engine repair business at 110 East Houk Street, Ironwood, MI 49938.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman addressed the City Commission stating the owner Chris Armata was present and he is requesting a variance to operate a small engine repair business at 110 E. Houk Street. Mr. Armata stated he would like to eventually move to a commercial space within a year. After a brief discussion Commission Semo asked Mr. Armata if he would be agreeable to a time limit to move this business to a commercial area. Mr. Armata acknowledged he would be agreeable to a time limit. Additional comments were received.

5. Mayor Burchell closed the Public Hearing at 5:36 P.M.
6. Consider action on variance request to operate a small engine repair business located at 110 E. Houk Street, Ironwood, MI 49938.

***Motion** was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer to grant the variance request to operate a small engine repair business located at 110 E. Houk Street, Ironwood, MI 49938 for a 24-month period at which time it will be re-evaluated with no additional fees. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

7. Mayor Burchell adjourned the Zoning Board of Appeals at 5:38 P.M.
-

1. Mayor Burchell called the Public Hearing to Order at 5:38 P.M.
2. Recording of the Roll.

The following members who were in attendance indicated the physical location from which they were remotely participating in the meeting were as follows: Commissioner Cayer (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Corcoran (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Mildren (City of Madison, Dane County, State of Wisconsin), Commissioner Semo (Silver City, Grant County, State of New Mexico), and Mayor Burchell (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan).

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

3. Public Hearing: To receive public comment on the Trust Fund Grant Application being submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The grant application is for the development of “Krznarich Little League Fields Playground”.

Community Development Director Bergman noted the Park and Recreation Committee requested to submit a Trust Fund Grant application to the Michigan Department of Resources for the Krznarich Little League Field Playground Project. He further noted the local match will be in kind work.

Bridget Ruppel, of 137 W. Gogebic Street thanked the City Commission for taking an interest in the Little League Field. She stated she has a 5- and 6-year-old playing T-Ball and they have a younger sibling who will very much appreciate the playground equipment. Further discussion of this matter took place.

4. Mayor Burchell closed the Public Hearing at 5:43 P.M.
- 

A. Mayor Burchell called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:43 P.M.

- B. Recording of the Roll.

The following members who were in attendance indicated the physical location from which they were remotely participating in the meeting were as follows: Commissioner Cayer (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Corcoran (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Mildren (City of Madison, Dane County, State of Wisconsin), Commissioner Semo (Silver City, Grant County, State of New Mexico), and Mayor Burchell (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan).

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 March 8, 2021.

\*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood City Commission Work Session Minutes February 22, 2021 and March 8, 2021.

b. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2021.

\*3) Receive and Place on File:

a. Petition Regarding Tula Toilet's Location on U.S. Highway 2.

*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 Cayer, seconded by Corcoran to approve the Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

E. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

*Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Mildren to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending February 28, 2021 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for February 2021. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

*Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer to approve the Monthly Check Register Report for February 2021. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

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

None.

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

Carissa Cayer-Mott, of 101 W. Birch Street addressed the City Commission thanking them for the nice change in the City of Ironwood website. She noted it was very user friendly. Mrs. Cayer-Mott also requested the City of Ironwood research to put in place a Robo Call System to notify citizens of various news like water breaks, city events, reminders of payments, garbage schedule changes, etc. Further discussion of this matter took place.

I. UPDATE: COVID-19 Response.

Public Safety Director Andrew DiGiorgio reminded people to navigate COVID-19 taking in all the precautions. He noted that 60% of the 64 and older population has already received or initiated the vaccination process. He also urged people to keep trying the Health Department in an effort to confirm or make appointments to get their vaccinations.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman noted there is not much of an update until the new funding packages are announced through the MI Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Finance Director Paul Linn mentioned he attended a Michigan Municipal League (MML) webinar today where they discussed funding for local governments through the American Rescue Plan. He informed the Commission that the City will receive 50% in 2021 and the remaining 50% in 2022. The City will have until 2024 to spend the funds. Mr. Linn reminded them that this is one-time funding, and that needs to be considered when planning how to spend the funds.

J. PRESENTATION: IPSD Director, Andrew DiGiorgio: Recognition of Meritorious Conduct Award to Public Safety Officer Michael Rimkus and Recognition of Life Save Award to Public Safety Officers Andrew Leiphart and Paul Rickard.

Public Safety Director Andrew DiGiorgio recognized Public Safety Officer Michael Rimkus with a Meritorious Conduct Award for saving a 43-year-old female contemplating suicide. Officer Rimkus remained focused on the safety and wellbeing of the 43-year-old and was able to get her to put the gun down and walk out of the wooded area. The 43-year-old female was transported to the hospital where she was then treated. He further noted Public Safety Officer Rimkus exemplified the character, care, compassion, and professionalism that defines a Public Safety Officer. Director DiGiorgio also presented Public Safety Officer Andrew Leiphart and Paul Rickard with a Life Saving Ribbon for saving a 73-year-old male in full cardiac arrest. The two officers administered CPR until the paramedics from Beacon Ambulance arrived. The 73-year-old male is currently off life support and is hopeful to make a full recovery. Director DiGiorgio noted all three (3) officers will receive their awards at Public Safety on Wednesday and this was Public Safety Officer Andrew Leiphart's 8<sup>th</sup> such save in his 25 year plus career and Officer Rickard's first in his brief time as a Public Safety Officer. Additional comments were received. Additional comments were made, and everyone applauded the officers for saving lives and everything they do for our community.

**OLD BUSINESS**

K. Discuss and consider adopting Ordinance No. 530, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Sections 34-133, 34-153, 34-173, and 34-2, permitted uses by conditional use permit, Chapter 34, Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ironwood, Michigan.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to adopt Ordinance No. 530, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Sections 34-133, 34-153, 34-173, and 34-2, permitted uses by conditional use permit, Chapter 34, Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Ironwood, Michigan.

**ROLL CALL:**

Yes (4): Commissioner Semo, Corcoran, Mildren, and Mayor Burchell.

No (1): Commissioner Cayer.

**Motion** carried on a 4 to 1 vote.

- L. Discuss and Consider awarding bid to P.K. Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$31,884.50.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to award bid to P.K. Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$31,884.50. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- M. Discuss and Consider awarding bid to Stratford Sign Co. for the construction of two entrance monument signs to be located on both the east end and west end of U.S. Highway 2.

**Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Corcoran to award the bid for option 2 as recommended by City staff to Stratford Sign Co. for the construction of two entrance monument signs to be located on both the east end and west end of U.S. Highway 2. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- N. Discuss and Consider adopting Resolution #021-008 to apply for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant (MDNR) for the development of "Krznarich Little League Fields Playground".

**Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Cayer to adopt Resolution #021-008 to apply for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant (MDNR) for the development of "Krznarich Little League Fields Playground". Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- O. Discuss and Consider approving City Commission Goals for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

**Motion** was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer to approve City Commission Goals for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- P. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #021-009, a Resolution declaring a local State of Emergency for the purpose of permitting the City Commission and other public bodies of the City to meet by Electronic and Telephonic Means.

**Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Cayer to approve Resolution #021-009, a Resolution declaring a local State of Emergency for the purpose of permitting the City Commission and

*other public bodies of the City to meet by Electronic and Telephonic Means until December 31, 2021. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- Q. Discuss and consider authorizing bids for the purchase and installment of new fire hydrants for the Water Utilities Distribution System, replacing 21 aged fire hydrants.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to authorize bids for the purchase and installment of new fire hydrants for the Water Utilities Distribution System, replacing aged fire hydrants. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- R. Discuss and Consider adopting Resolution 021-010 scheduling a Public Hearing on Monday April 12, 2021 at 5:25 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of Cory and Cynthia Sandy at 39 Newport Heights S. (52-24-178-240)

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Cayer to adopt Resolution #021-010 scheduling a Public Hearing on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:25 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of Cory and Cynthia Sandy at 39 Newport Heights S. (52-24-178-240). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- S. Discuss and Consider approving dedication of an easement to Xcel Energy to bury the existing overhead power lines at Norrie Park.

***Motion** was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer to approve dedication of an easement to Xcel Energy to bury the existing overhead power lines at Norrie Park. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- T. Discuss and Consider approving renewal of subrecipient agreement between the City of Ironwood and Northern Great Lakes Initiatives for Michigan CDBG Program.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve the renewal of subrecipient agreement between the City of Ironwood and Northern Great Lakes Initiatives for Michigan CDBG Program. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- U. Manager's Report.

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

- \*Several bid openings will be happening this week like the Mountain Bike Trail Project, Memorial Building Gymnasium patching and painting project, and Mine Shaft Safety Fencing.
- \*Load limits are currently on in the City of Ironwood.
- \*Street sweeping and pothole patching has begun throughout the City of Ironwood.
- \*Final touch up work is being done at the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center awaiting date for grand opening.
- \*Iron Belle Trail was plowed and ready for use.

- V. Other Matters.

Commissioner Corcoran thanked citizens for picking up trash in their neighborhoods and

requested the City of Ironwood consider a revenue plan for the extra income created by the Marihuana fees.

Commissioner Cayer commented on how nice it is to see the street sweeper out, would like to see the drop box relocated, and the 25-mile speed limit sign on Hemlock reinstalled.

W. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Cayer, seconded by Semo to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 P.M. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Annette Da Lio-Burchell, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk