

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held via Zoom on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 5:30 P.M., along with a Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M.

1. Mayor Burchell called the Public Hearing 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 Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Semo (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), 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 hear comment relative to the submittal of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for a Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) grant for the replacement of lead water service lines.

Jeff Sjoquist, PE for Coleman Engineering addressed the City Commission stating a budget plan has been completed for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) grant for the replacement of lead water service lines. Mr. Sjoquist noted the City of Ironwood has qualified for this program and received in January an approval for the intent to apply. These funds are referred to as "booker funds". If the City of Ironwood does not get funded this year, the application will be good for up to five (5) years. Additional comments were received.

Mr. Sjoquist mentioned there were no negative environmental impacts on this project and there were no public comments received.

4. Mayor Burchell closed the Public Hearing at 5:48 P.M.

A. Mayor Burchell called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:48 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 Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Semo (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), 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 Minutes of May 24.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of Feb. 4, March 4, and April 1.

b. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of Feb. 25 and April 22.

***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 Mildren to approve the amended Agenda to include M1. Discuss and consider authorizing bids for the exterior metal wall repairs at the Department of Public Works (DPW) Building. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

E. Update on COVID-19 Response.

Public Safety Director Andrew DiGiorgio addressed the City Commission stating vaccines are moving forward through the Western U.P. Health Department and the Aspirus Hospital. He urged everyone to be cognitive of signs when entering any building.

Finance Director Paul Linn reminded the Commission that the U.S. Treasury had issued guidelines regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. He reported that the U.S. Treasury also released information about the total amount of ARPA funds for Michigan non-entitlement units (NEU) of government (city's, villages, and townships under 50,000 population). The amount of ARPA funds to be received by each NEU will be based on population. Based on the information provided by U.S. Treasury, the City of Ironwood is expected to receive approximately \$500,000. The actual amount will be calculated by the Michigan Department of Treasury. It is anticipated that this will be done soon.

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

There were none.

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

Carissa Cayer-Mott, of 101 W. Birch Street urged the City Commission to invest in a robo-call system to notify residents of upcoming events or emergencies. Additional comments were received.

OLD BUSINESS

- H. Discuss and Consider Resolution #021-017 authorizing the 2021 City Tax Levy, authorizing a General Appropriation Act for Fiscal 2021-2022, and authorizing the collection of a 1% Tax Administration Fee and adopt the 2021-2022 Fee Schedule.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to approve Resolution #021-017 authorizing the 2021 City Tax Levy, authorizing a General Appropriation Act for Fiscal 2021-2022, and authorizing the collection of a 1% Tax Administration Fee and adopt the 2021-2022 Fee Schedule with the noted errors (3" Meter service charge to be \$500.79 effective 7/1/21 and to add the monthly garbage fee of \$13.31 effective from 7/1/21-9/30/21).

ROLL CALL:

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

No (1): Commissioner Cayer.

Motion carried on a 4 to 1 vote.

- I. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #021-014 for the submittal of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for a Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) grant for the replacement of lead water service lines and designate City Manager, Scott Erickson as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the project.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to approve Resolution #021-014 for the submittal of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for a Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) grant for the replacement of lead water service lines and designate City Manager, Scott Erickson as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- J. Discuss and consider approval and acceptance of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Housing Development Fund Grant Agreement (Grant #HDF-2021-072-NEP) to provide support for rehabilitation of single-family owner-occupied houses in the Douglas neighborhood and authorize Community Development Tom Bergman and Assistant Community Development Director Tim Erickson to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Cayer to approve, and accept the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Housing Development Fund Grant Agreement (Grant #HDF-2021-072-NEP) to provide support for rehabilitation of single-family owner-occupied houses in the Douglas neighborhood and authorize Community Development Director Tom Bergman and Assistant Community Development Director Tim Erickson to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- K. Discuss and Consider authorizing pay application #1 to P.K. Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$11,441.98.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Cayer to authorize pay application #1 to P.K. Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$11,441.98. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- L. Discuss draft Ordinance No. 532, Book 5 regarding allowable number of dogs and cats in single family homes.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Ordinance and the consensus was to set it for a public hearing to get public input regarding the dog and cat ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

- M1. Discuss and consider authorizing bids for the exterior metal wall repairs at the Department of Public Works (DPW) Building.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Corcoran to authorize bids for the exterior metal wall repairs at the Department of Public Works (DPW) Building. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- M. Discuss and Consider Resolution #021-016 to transfer delinquent invoices for ordinance violations to the July 2021 City Tax Roll.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Cayer to approve Resolution #021-016 to transfer delinquent invoices for ordinance violations to the July 2021 City Tax Roll. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- N. Discuss and consider introduction of Ordinance 531, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 9-Cemeteries amending sections 9-30 Funeral and interments and Section 9-32 Monuments, Flush Markers or Individual Grave Markers (changing Ash Crypt location from Lots 66-72 to 65-72).

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo to introduce Ordinance #531, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 9-Cemeteries amending sections 9-30 Funeral and interments and Section 9-32 Monuments, Flush Markers or Individual Grave Markers (changing Ash Crypt location from Lots 66-72 to 65-72). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- O. Discuss and Consider approving the City of Ironwood and Gogebic County Road Commission Reimbursement Agreement for the 2021 Chip Seal Project.

Motion was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to approve the City of Ironwood and Gogebic County Road Commission Reimbursement Agreement for the 2021 Chip Seal Project.

ROLL CALL:

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

No (1): Commissioner Cayer.

Motion carried on a 4 to 1 vote.

- P. Discuss and Consider approving the City of Ironwood and Gogebic County Road Commission Reimbursement Agreement for the joint project for the roadway restoration work of Van Buskirk Road from Norrie Park Road to Midway Avenue.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Corcoran to approve the City of Ironwood and Gogebic County Road Commission Reimbursement Agreement for the joint project for the roadway restoration work of Van Buskirk Road from Norrie Park Road to Midway Avenue. 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:

- *Jake's Excavating is moving along nicely on the water and sewer project on Lake Avenue.
- *Snow Country will be starting on the Mountain Bike Trail Project in the Miners' Memorial Heritage Park.
- *The Emberlight Festival will be coming to the Downtown City Square on September 3.
- *The Pride Picnic went very well this past weekend.
- *The Downtown Square Project was worth the effort for everyone to enjoy.
- *The next City Commission meeting will be both virtual and in person.

R. Other Matters.

Commissioner Cayer liked seeing everyone enjoy the Downtown City Square.

Commissioner Semo noted during the Emberlight Festival there will be art exhibits in the Miners' Memorial Heritage Park.

Commissioner Corcoran applauded the Library Director and employees for continuing their services during COVID. She also urged everyone to respect the parks and equipment.

Commissioner Mildren stated how nice it is to see the last 6 or 7 years of planning come together from all the hard work. He enjoys seeing the people coming downtown and buying things like in the past. He also thanked all the volunteers.

Mayor Burchell noted a visitor commended the Cemetery Sexton Dan Sertic for helping with the damage to a cemetery stone.

S. Consider Closed Session to discuss City Manager's Contract.

***Motion** was made by Corcoran, seconded by Semo to enter into closed session to discuss the City Manager's Contract. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

T. Returned to open session at 6:50 P.M.

U. Discuss & Consider action on City Manager's Contract.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve the City Manager's Contract with a 2% salary increase effective July 1, 2021; and allow for him to sell back five (5) sick days per year (an increase from the currently allowed three (3) days).*

ROLL CALL:

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

No (1): Commissioner Cayer.

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

V. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Corcoran to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Annette Da Lio-Burchell, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk