

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held in person and via Zoom at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, November 22, 2021.

A. Mayor Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll

PRESENT: Commissioner Andresen, Korpela, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran.

ABSENT: None.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda*

*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting of November 8, 2021.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2021 and October 7, 2021.

b. Park & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2021.

c. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021.

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

D. Oath of Office – New City Clerk

City Clerk Karen Gullan gave the oath of office to the new City Clerk Wendy Hagstrom.

E. Approval of the Agenda

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo and carried to approve the Amended Agenda to include Item JI. Audience presentation of plaque to Commissioner Joseph J. Cayer.*

F. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

***Motion** was made by Semo seconded by Mildren and carried to receive, and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending October 31, 2021, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for October 31, 2021.*

G. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen to approve the Monthly Check Register Report for October 31, 2021. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

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

Randy Kashich, of 342 Lake Avenue expressed his dismay with not having the financials available. Mr. Kashich was informed they were on the website, and if he needed to obtain them he should come to the city offices to get a copy.

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

Randy Kashich of 342 Lake Avenue expressed his dismay with not being noticed of the Planning Commission meeting. He expressed his concerns with his FOIA request. Additional concerns were received. Mr. Kashich was informed he can refer to information on the website regarding the Planning Commission meetings. The meetings are also posted on the doors of the Memorial Building.

J. AUDIENCE: Sandy Sutton, RDH, BS, Community Water Fluoridation Coordinator, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
(RE: Municipal Water System Fluoridation)

City Manager Scott Erickson stated 89% of the population in the State of Michigan has fluoridation in their water system. Wakefield and Ashland are local communities that have fluoridation in their water.

Sandra Sutton, RDH, BS, Community Water Fluoridation Coordinator from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services gave a presentation via Zoom to the Ironwood City Commission regarding Municipal Water System Fluoridation.

Dr. Russell Dunkel, Wisconsin State Dental Director via Zoom noted with COVID, access to care within the dental system has been a problem. Water fluoridation may be their only dental access for several months. It is valuable for under-resourced individuals.

Kristine Ferrell, Oral Health Director for the State of Michigan spoke via Zoom regarding her long history working with fluoridation in communities in the State of Michigan.

Dr. Paul Hagemann, local dentist, was present. Dr. Hagemann stated he could tell patients from the Wakefield area were fluoridated via other surrounding areas. Overall, there were less cavities. It does make a difference. No downside to supplementing the water with fluoride.

Gary Laguna, who lives in the City of Hurley questioned the panel because Hurley blends water from two different water sources - Ironwood and Montreal, Wisconsin. He expressed his concern if they have different levels of fluoride in the water due to the blending of water sources. It was noted Hurley would need to see what requirements for testing will be needed.

J1. AUDIENCE: Presentation of Plaque to previous Commissioner Joseph J. Cayer

Mayor Kim Corcoran and the City Commission noted and wanted to present to previous Commissioner Joseph J. Cayer a plaque in appreciation of his years of service and dedication to the Ironwood City Commission and the residents of the City of Ironwood. Joe Cayer served on the City Commission from November 7, 2017, through November 2, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

K. Discuss and Consider authorizing adding fluoride to the City of Ironwood Water System and applying for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services MDHHS Fluoridation Grant.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen to authorize adding fluoride to the City of Ironwood Water System and applying for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services MDHHS Fluoridation Grant. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Update on current status of Marihuana Establishment Licenses.

Economic Development Director Tom Bergman went over the final approval needed as far as what the City of Ironwood requires and what the State of Michigan requires. All businesses have already paid \$1,500 when they applied for the license. The annual license fee is \$5,000.00. \$3,500 is due before issuing a license.

Commissioner Semo questioned the progress of the facilities. Mr. Bergman stated the communication has been good and feels that early next year two retail establishments will be open based on talking with the owners, and no one is foregoing their licenses at this time. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Commissioner Andresen was curious how long it takes for the final approval and licensing. He questioned if the City Commission should re-visit and look at the number of licenses again, allowing more at a certain time.

Mayor Corcoran inquired how often are the businesses being inspected. It was noted by City Staff that Dennis Hewitt, Building Inspector contacts them to come on site to see their progress. The Ordinance also states Public Safety and members of city government can go into these facilities and inspect.

M. Consider approval of Change Order No. 4 for the City of Ironwood – 2021 Water and Sewer Project to Jake’s Excavating & Landscaping, LLC., deducting \$19,587.86 (Water deduction of \$16,768.62, Sewer deduction of \$4,226.91, Road addition of \$1,407.67) and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to approve Change Order No. 4 for the City of Ironwood – 2021 Water and Sewer Project to Jake’s Excavating & Landscaping, LLC., deducting \$19,587.86 (Water deduction of \$16,768.62, Sewer deduction of \$4,226.91, Road addition of \$1,407.67) and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- N. Consider approval of Pay Request No. 6 for the City of Ironwood – 2021 Water and Sewer Project to Jake’s Excavating & Landscaping, LLC. in the amount of \$117,505.06 (Water \$28,032.84, Sewer \$49,570.63, Road \$39,901.59) for the City of Ironwood – 2021 Water and Sewer Project and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela to approve Pay Request No. 6 for the City of Ironwood – 2021 Water and Sewer Project to Jake’s Excavating & Landscaping, LLC. in the amount of \$117,505.06 (Water \$28,032.84, Sewer \$49,570.63, Road \$39,901.59) for the City of Ironwood – 2021 Water and Sewer Project and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- O. Discuss and consider awarding demolition bid for 110 E. Birch Street to Angelo Luppino, Inc. for \$13,717.00.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen to award demolition bid for 110 E. Birch Street to Angelo Luppino, Inc. for \$13,717.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- P. Discuss and consider approving pay application #4 and balancing change order to Angelo Luppino, Inc. for the 2021 Local Street Paving Project in the amount of \$96,647.84.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo to approve pay application #4 and balancing change order to Angelo Luppino, Inc. for the 2021 Local Street Paving Project in the amount of \$96,647.84. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- Q. Discuss and consider approving pay application #3 to Snow Country Contracting in the amount of \$23,478.60 for the Miners’ Memorial Heritage Park Mountain Bike Trail Head Parking Lots and Connector Trail Project.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen to approve pay application #3 to Snow Country Contracting in the amount of \$23,478.60 for the Miners’ Memorial Heritage Park Mountain Bike Trail Head Parking Lots and Connector Trail Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- R. Discuss and consider approving balancing change order and revised final pay application to P.K. Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$22,110.34.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve balancing change order and revised final pay application to P.K. Contracting, Inc. for the 2021 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$22,110.34. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- S. Discuss and Consider introduction of Ordinance No. 533, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Section 4-10 (Entitled “Consumption in Public”) in Chapter 4, Entitled “Alcoholic Liquors” of the Code of Ordinance, City of Ironwood, Michigan and schedule a public hearing for

Monday, December 13, 2021, at 5:25 P.M.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela to approve scheduling a public hearing on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 5:25 P.M. for Ordinance No. 533, Book 5, an Ordinance to amend Section 4-10 (Entitled “Consumption in Public”) in Chapter 4, Entitled “Alcoholic Liquors” of the Code of Ordinance, City of Ironwood, Michigan. Unanimously passed.

T. Discuss and consider approval of a grant application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP).

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to approve a grant application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP). Unanimously passed.

U. Discuss and Consider the City Employee Gratuity for the Holiday Season.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen to approve the City Employee Gratuity in the amount of \$100.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

V. Manager’s Report.

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

- *City Audit – The City is actively engaged in the audit now. There will be a presentation to the Commission of the findings at the end of the audit.
- *Thank you to the Department of Public Works (DPW) and volunteers for putting up the holiday lighting. More lights were added this year. The highway decorations will be going up this week. It was noted it looks great.
- *Previously approved demolition of two structures at Tamarack and Garvey streets has now been completed. It was noted once again the stairwell demolition on McLeod was also completed, and now the site has been cleaned up.
- *A Work Session will take place with the Library Board and the City Commission to discuss the possibility of a district library. This Work Session will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 29, 2021.
- *Upcoming events - Downtown 1st Friday will be “Frost Friday” on December 3rd, and the Jack Frost Parade will take place Saturday December 4th.
- * Midwest Sno-Cross Race will be at Mt. Zion December 4th – 6th.
- * The SISU Cross Country Ski race will be held January 6th – 8th, 2022.
- * Pro-Vintage and Snowmobile Olympus Racing will take place at the Gogebic County Fairgrounds over the next month.
- * The Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing for the new zoning ordinance on Dec. 2nd at 5:30 p.m., and a combined work session with the City Commission will take place on December 13th at 4:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

W. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren noted Santa’s Headquarters is still accepting toys and financial help.

The American Legion, City Commission, and the City of Ironwood are planning to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Memorial Building that is coming up in 2022.

Commissioner Semo noted we are one of the only locations that has snow. The Miner's Park has people coming from out-of-town to cross country ski.

Commissioner Andresen also stated the Miner's Park looks great, lights are fantastic, and the tree lighting ceremony was wonderful. He would like to see an ex-officio youth member on the City Commission. This has been done in past. It will be a topic for a future agenda.

We are learning a little more about the diversity and inclusion group and what can be done. The City Manager noted the City entity ad-hoc group has been helping with this and intend to bring this back to the City Commission to formalize. It is a work in progress.

The Commissioner and City Staff agreed to look back at past action taken regarding the marihuana licensing, whether a specific timeline of one year needs to be followed, or if the City Commission can modify the past action taken.

Mayor Corcoran suggested posting meetings on the bulletin board by the Water Department. Mayor Corcoran questioned Iron Belle access during the winter. It was noted The City of Ironwood keeps the school route open from Greenbush to Suffolk up to where the motorized trail crosses. It was also noted that there is a group of volunteers grooming from Bessemer to Country Club Road for cross-country and snowshoeing. City Manager Erickson noted the city maintains sidewalks in the Safe Route to School area and will promote by posting the walkable routes for those walking in the wintertime.

Mayor Kim Corcoran and the City Commission presented a plaque to retiring City Clerk Karen Gullan in appreciation of her years of service and dedication to the Ironwood City Commission and the residents of the City of Ironwood. Karen served as the City Clerk from November 1, 1999, through November 30, 2021. She was thanked for being a fair person, a fun person, and a great resource that points everyone in the right direction. Karen has attended 572 commission meetings, worked under 11 different City Commissions and 2 City Managers.

X. Consider Closed Session to consult with city attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation pursuant to MCL15.268(e).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to enter Closed Session at 7:04 p.m. to consult with city attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation pursuant to MCL 15.268(e). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Y. Return to open session

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren and carried to return to Open Session at 7:14 p.m.*

Z. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk