

## Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held in person and via Zoom for the public on Monday, January 10th, 2022 at 5:30 P.M., along with a Work Session at 5:00 P.M.

A. Mayor Corcoran called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:31 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 Minutes of December 27, 2021.

\*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Carnegie Library Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2021.

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

D. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Corcoran requested to amend the Agenda, adding Audience with Republic Services Representatives before Old Business and approve the amended Agenda.

***\*\*Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to amend the Agenda, adding Audience with Republic Services Representatives before Old Business and approve the amended Agenda.*

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

**\*\* F1. AUDIENCE – Republic Services, Jim Whittinghill, Municipal Sales Manager & Jane Matthias, Operations Supervisor**

City Manager Scott Erickson stated that over the last week there were some challenges with waste collection. The City has been working with Jim and Jane to correct it. Mr. Whittinghill addressed the Commissioners. He noted there has never been such a difficult time like now to get good quality help. They need good drivers to provide quality service, and they are struggling to attain and enhance their fleet of drivers to cover sickness, etc. Jane is working hard to hire good workers. Last week they pulled 4 drivers to come to Ironwood and help. They are available for any questions or help needed and are trying to correct the issues.

Jane Matthias also addressed the Commissioners. She is currently training a new driver and having another new hire go through the background check process. They are aggressively hiring and working hard to grow a good team. She mapped out a plan with the City to cover the area in two days last week, and is continuously working to get better. Never hesitate to call her. She wants to ensure they are successful. She noted all drivers have access to a smart phone to access google maps. It was also noted after the plan was developed, Utility Manager Mr. Bob Tervonen sent the information over to publish on the Ironwood Public Safety Facebook page, The City Facebook page, and the radio stations for their Facebook pages. Mayor Corcoran stated she appreciated the follow-up and that there is a game plan. She also stated Michigan Works is a good resource for Republic to utilize for whatever positions they have open.

Commissioner Semo asked Republic to please communicate with our City Staff so they can get word to residents. Jane Matthias noted she will do that in the future. Both Jim Whittinghill and Jane Matthias stated they can call City of Ironwood customers if they are provided with phone numbers. Minimally, they could start with Staff and Commissioners to create a call blast list as a way to immediately communicate any issues that arise.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

G. Discuss and Consider placing on file the City Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

(\*\*CITY AUDIT REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30th, 2021 IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW ON THE CITY WEBSITE- <https://cityofironwood.org/government/documents/> \*\*).

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to place on file the City Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

H. Discuss and Consider setting a public hearing for 5:25 p.m. on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to consider approving a special assessment for 420 E. McLeod Avenue, Ironwood, MI for condemnation and demolition of hazardous stairwell.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted if the hearing is set, we will invite that property owner in. We would notify them of the hearing.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela and carried to set a public hearing for 5:25 p.m. on Monday, February 14th, 2022 to consider approving a special assessment for 420 E. McLeod Avenue, Ironwood, MI for condemnation and demolition of hazardous stairwell.*

- I. Discuss and Consider authorizing approving the purchase of a new Vactor Sewer Cleaning Vehicle with a hydrostatic driven vacuum system and declare the current Vactor Vehicle surplus.

City Manager Scott Erickson and DPW Supervisor Bob Richards addressed the importance of the Vactor sewer cleaning vehicle as one of the most utilized vehicles in the Ironwood Department of Public Works fleet of vehicles. This specialized vehicle saves time, effort, and cost and is used on most DPW maintenance and repair projects. The existing Vactor was purchased in 2007 and has been actively used the past 15 years. It is recommended this existing Vactor be declared surplus with a minimum bid of \$60,000 which can be posted once the new Vactor is in operation. Funding for the new Vactor purchase will be from the Equipment Fund. The City Finance Office will be pursuing a low interest bank loan to fund the purchase. If approved, this process does take 5 to 6 months which means it would be summer or fall when it would be finalized. The proposed vehicle to be purchased is from Jack Doheny Company for the bid amount of \$446,188.00. This vehicle has been competitively bid through the Sourcewell bidding and procurement process.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo to authorize the purchase of a new Vactor Sewer Cleaning Vehicle with a hydrostatic driven vacuum system from Jack Doheny Company in the amount of \$446,188.00 and declare the current Vactor Vehicle surplus and set for a minimum bid of \$60,000.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- J. Discuss and Review 2022 Projects List.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted the larger projects that are in the budget. Not everything listed will be completed this year. The list gives an idea of what the City Staff are working on as the City Commission enters into budget discussions for the next fiscal year. If commissioners see anything else during the goal setting process, they can add additional projects they think are necessary for the community. The list is being provided for informational purposes for the Commission.

No action was taken on this item.

- K. Discuss and Consider Resolution #022-001 to comply with the provisions of PA 152.

Finance Director Paul Linn explained that as a public employer, the City must be in compliance

with Public Act 152 for each medical benefit plan coverage year beginning on or after January 1, 2012. A local unit of government may elect to comply with Section 4 of the Act (MCL 15.564(1)) or exercise the exemption (“opt-out”) provision of Section 8 of the Act (MCL 15.568(1)) at any time prior to the beginning of the medical benefit plan coverage year. The elections must be made separately for each new medical benefit plan coverage year.

The City has opted out of PA 152 since its inception, due to the fact that compensation determinations for City employees are most properly the responsibility of the City’s elected representatives, and not the State of Michigan or its officials. By opting out of (exempting itself from) the cost-sharing model as set forth in the act, the City is in compliance with the act.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo adopting Resolution #022-001 to comply with the provisions of PA 152 by exercising the exemption (“opt-out”) provision. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Discuss and Consider authorizing bids for 2022 Pavement Striping.

City Manager Scott Erickson stated this is the annual bid for this coming year. If approved, the plan is to bring the bids back to the Commission for consideration.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, and carried unanimously to authorize bids for 2022 Pavement Striping.*

M. Manager’s Report.

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

- \* It was a great weekend for our area. The stars aligned and the moon came out. There was good weather along with a good snowfall before the weekend. Many events took place in our area. There was an International Ski Federation downhill ski race at Indianhead, the Snowmobile Olympus at Gogebic County Fairgrounds, and SISU. A lot of people were in our area. A special recognition to City Staff for volunteering. They plowed snow and pulled snow in about a 24- hour period. We are appreciative of the extra effort from the City Staff and the community to make it happen.
- \* A couple workshops are coming up for the Commission. There will be a combined workshop with the Planning Commission for the zoning ordinance tentatively set for Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. There are now 2 Commissioners coming in with the Planning Commission Chair for a meeting regarding the Medical Marijuana Zoning concept to bring something back to the full Commission with options thought out to have a good productive discussion. It is a complicated topic, and we want well thought-out ideas for that workshop.
- \* COVID testing will take place the next few Wednesdays in our building. The Western U.P. Health Department worked with a private company to set it up. It is a quick turnaround test. Currently, residents are having a hard time getting a test. This testing is scheduled for every Wednesday up through February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Memorial Building. It will be a good resource. No appointment is needed. We can share the information on Facebook.

\* Another Workshop will be on the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to dial in what it can be used for. City staff has developed a potential list of projects, and the Commission is encouraged to come up with a project or two that those dollars can be used for that can help economically going forward. Add something of value that will pay dividends is the concept. City will need Commissioner's thoughts of where they want the funds to go.

N. Other Matters.

Commissioner Semo commended the Department of Public Works and commented how they were able to pull snow after the snowstorm. The past week of work was above and beyond. Thank you to City Staff for their volunteering. They had a wonderful aide station at SISU. There was a lot of feedback from SISU on how positive it is, and the attitude has changed. We are heading in a good direction.

Commissioner Mildren reiterated comments from everyone are positive from the Snowmobile Olympus and SISU. Sleigh riding hill is attracting families from across Wisconsin. Miner's Park is wonderful in that it is free to use for teaching children to ski. He also brought up the new information about cost savings on internet services. The Federal government has a new program called the Affordable Connectivity Program. If you are under 200 percent of the Federal guidelines, you qualify for \$30 a month cash assistance to pay for internet services. He called Spectrum to confirm this information. An individual can apply for this assistance through Spectrum. Spectrum will email the application to customers who request it.

Mayor Corcoran expressed thanks for the volunteerism in Ironwood, and again the Department of Public Works that pulled snow, plowed snow, and dealt with a water leak. A shout-out to DPW Supervisor Bob Richards. He checks on his folks working out there. She also noted a goal will be to explore a call out blast system to keep citizens informed about Republic Services.

Finance Director Paul Linn stated goal setting does kick off the budget cycle and will be scheduled for the first or second meeting in February.

O. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 P.M. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk