

## Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held in person and via Zoom for the Public on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.

A. Mayor Pro Tem Andresen called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

B. Discuss and consider granting excused absence of Mayor Corcoran

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to excuse the absence of Mayor Corcoran. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

C. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Korpela, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Pro Tem Andresen

ABSENT: Mayor Corcoran (excused).

D. Approval of the Consent Agenda.\*

\*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting of January 10, 2022.

\*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022.

\*3) Poverty Exemption Resolution #022-003.

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

E. Approval of the Agenda

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried unanimously to approve the Agenda as presented.*

F. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

Financial reports from the Agenda Packet were addressed by Finance Director/Treasurer, Paul Linn for the month ending December 31, 2021.

*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 December 31, 2021 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for December 2021.*

G. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

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

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

J. AUDIENCE: Chris Larson, HDR Inc.  
(RE: Water Treatment Plant Project Update)

Mr. Chris Larson of HDR Inc. did a brief presentation on the status of the Water Treatment Plant Project. Design is now 100 percent completed and has been submitted to U.S.D.A. Rural Development and EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) for their review. The site plan was presented that will be located north of the left driveway of the Pump Station.

The main level floor plan was presented. The office control room will be housed on this floor as well as rooms where the chemicals will be added to take out the manganese. They will also be adding fluoride, which is a decision the Commission made a few weeks back. The high service pump room will also be housed on the main level. Noted in the middle will be filters, sand filters, and then a detention tank that allows the chemicals time to react. The upper-level floor plan indicated where operators can look down into the filters as well as stairs going outside to the roof and front of the building.

A rendering of the front of the building was shown. The building itself is primarily brick and rock-faced block. A rendering of the back of the building was also presented.

Mr. Larson also addressed the schedule. Plans and specs were submitted on December 21, 2021 to U.S.D.A. Rural Development and EGLE. HDR will then incorporate their comments and issue their plans and specs. For bidding, the probable schedule would consist of specs being submitted in a month or so. Bids would then be received, and construction would start this spring. The project will be complete in the summer or fall of 2023. Budget for the project is about \$8 million for the building, leaving some contingency. During these times, bidding is fairly uncertain. They will have to wait to see how the bids come in and react accordingly.

U.S.D.A. Rural Development is the funding agency, and a federal agency. EGLE would grant approval of the plans, i.e., permits. EGLE is a State of Michigan agency. City Manager Scott Erickson reminded the Commission that rough numbers are about a \$4.25 million in grant funding and \$5.4 million in a low interest loan. Commissioner Semo noted this site plan is similar to the plant toured in Cloquet, Minnesota.

## OLD BUSINESS

K. Discuss and consider authorizing bids for the Water Treatment Plant Project.

Commissioner Semo inquired if this is the correct process to authorize bidding now before we receive approval from EGLE. Mr. Larson and City Manager Scott Erickson both confirmed that authorizing bids is the next step in the process.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to authorize bids for the Water Treatment Plant Project.*

## NEW BUSINESS

L. Discuss and consider approval of Amendment to the Agreement between the City of Ironwood and the Ironwood Tourism Council (ITC) and authorize Mayor Pro Tem to sign.

City Manager Scott Erickson addressed the Commissioners regarding the Amendment to the Agreement the City has with the Ironwood Tourism Council. The original Agreement has been in place a few years and worked well. The Ironwood Tourism Council is interested in getting people to come to Ironwood in partnership with the City of Ironwood. We are reimbursed from the Tourism Council for this service. The amendment was addressed, including the rate of pay which is reflected with more job responsibilities, as well as an update to Section 3 “Cost will also include applicable fringe benefits.” Commissioner Semo noted this is a successful partnership.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to authorize approval of an Amendment to the Agreement between the City of Ironwood and the Ironwood Tourism Council (ITC) and authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to sign. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

M. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution #022-004 and authorize Mayor Pro Tem to execute Quit Claim Deed from the City of Ironwood to Ottawa Forest Products, Inc., as described in attached Exhibit A.

City Manager Scott Erickson addressed the map that was distributed, indicating the specific parcel described in Exhibit A. The attorney for Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. is cleaning up a title on the land. The City of Ironwood had sold the property many years ago. Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. has ownership. There was a reversionary clause in there that needs to be cleared up with a quit claim deed. Ottawa Forest Products, Inc., has been paying taxes on it. The City of Ironwood does not want it back. City Manager Scott Erickson recommended approval of the quit claim deed to Ottawa Forest Products, Inc.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo to approve Resolution #022-004 and authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to execute the Quit Claim Deed from the City of Ironwood to Ottawa Forest Products, Inc., as described in Exhibit A. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. Mayor’s Appointments.

Mayor Pro Tem Andresen, in support and acting on behalf of Mayor Corcoran, confirmed the following Appointments:

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Anne Davey and Gemma Lamb to the Board of Review for a 3 year term (term expiring December 31, 2024), and appointed Karen Gullan to the Board of Review, for the expired term of Jeffrey Musselman, for a 3 year term (term expiring December 31, 2024).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Anne Davey and Gemma Lamb to the Board of Review for a 3 year term (term expiring December 31, 2024), and appointment of Karen Gullan to the Board of Review, for the expired term of Jeffrey Musselman, for a 3 year term (term expiring December 31, 2024).*

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Wendy Hicks to the Ironwood Carnegie Library Board for a 5 year term, (term expiring December 31, 2026).

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Wendy Hicks to the Ironwood Carnegie Library Board for a 5 year term, (term expiring December 31, 2026).*

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Stephanie Holloway to the Ironwood Planning Commission for a 3 year term (term expiring December 31, 2024).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Stephanie Holloway to the Ironwood Planning Commission for a 3 year term (term expiring December 31, 2024).*

#### O. Manager's Report.

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

- \* The State of Michigan Health Department's contractor will continue to provide COVID testing services each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ironwood Memorial Building over the next few months. It's been well attended and is a good service for our area.
- \* A City Commission workshop, to review and discuss options relative to the Medical Marihuana section of the new city zoning ordinance, is tentatively planned for Monday, February 7, 2022.
- \* City staff are currently investigating software to allow for on-line camping reservations at Curry Park. There are currently no advanced registrations taken, and it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. The implementation of an online registration process would allow campers to book a site ahead of time and most likely increase camper usage of the tourist park. The software currently being utilized by both Iron County and Gogebic County parks is being evaluated.
- \* A group of volunteers are organizing an effort to flood the oval at the Downtown City Square for ice skating. The park was designed with the idea of winter skating at this location. It will be a trial effort to see how the flooding process goes, determine what it takes to keep it clear of

snow, and to see how it is received by the public. He noted he is looking forward to working with Commissioner David Andresen and all the volunteers on this effort.

- \* Marissa Casari has been hired for the Utility Billing and Data Processing position for the Finance Department. Marissa will be starting with the City on Monday, January 31, 2022. Stop by to welcome Marissa to the City when you see her next Monday.

P. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren inquired about computerizing the cemetery records for Riverside Cemetery. City Clerk Wendy Hagstrom noted that as time permits, the staff in the City Clerk's Office has been entering data from the historical deed books and scanning written records into the City's software system over the past two to three years. To complete entry of all records for publishing will require detailed work related to ownership, transfer of deeds, and historical burial information for each individual space, block, and lot related to the Riverside Cemetery. With the recent staff changes upon the retirement of the City Clerk at the end of November 2021, and mandated training by the State of Michigan for the new City Clerk that is ongoing, the cemetery data entry will be scheduled around trainings and during non-election times when the staff has availability to focus on this detailed data entry. Another option is to publish what is completed at some point, going back to dates that are more commonly requested.

Q. Adjournment.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 P.M.*

David Andresen, Mayor Pro Tem

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk