

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, February 28th, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.

A. Mayor Corcoran called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Andresen, Korpela, Mildren, and Mayor Corcoran
ABSENT: Commissioner Semo (excused).

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda. *

*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting of February 14, 2022.

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

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Korpela, seconded by Andresen, and carried unanimously to approve the Agenda as presented.

E. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.
2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

Financial reports from the Agenda Packet were presented by Finance Director/Treasurer, Paul Linn for the month ending January 31, 2022.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending January 31st, 2022 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for January 2022.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve the Monthly Check Register Report for January 2022. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

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

There were none.

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

Ben Thompson of 414 Silver Street addressed the City Commission regarding adding marijuana retail licensing. He stated there is a 50 percent chance their investors will pull out if more licenses are added, and there are potentially other repercussions. It will speed up consolidation. A big company could just come in and buy everything. It makes it harder for a micro to pull it off. His desire is for them to be open for 6 months so they can develop a customer base. He noted he is also a carpenter and there are so many buildings severely neglected that need energy. If the City could somehow structure the law, if you take a vacant building and meet requirements, that's what he would do. He appreciates the enthusiasm, but just the suggestion of adding licenses seems mis-timed, and there are other considerations before pursuing that. Mayor Corcoran thanked him for speaking. She noted there may be another opportunity for him to speak again when they move ahead with the zoning ordinance.

Joshua Norman of 4904 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN addressed the City Commission via Zoom, being a business partner of Mr. Thompson. He stated the investors they have been talking to need to understand the complexity of making the building and business work. They think it's an amazing opportunity for their business, the City, and investors. The license count directly affects their models. They just received state pre-approval January 5th. Very excited about it. He noted it is difficult with the back and forth to get funding they need with the license count, and it is challenging for any place considering licenses for the first time. He expressed what this does to the process. He stated that the City going forward will have to deal with this, and other people have to be considered too. He appreciated the time. Mayor Corcoran thanked him.

OLD BUSINESS - No Items on Agenda

NEW BUSINESS

I. Discuss and consider adopting 2022 Curry Park Campground Rates.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted the Curry Park Campground rates are usually adopted when the Commission does the budget, but the City is now implementing a system for advanced registrations. This is something different that should significantly increase usership. The local Counties are using it and say it is very positive. There is a cost with implementing the on-line system, which is what is reflected in the rate increases. Commissioner Mildren noted we have beautiful campgrounds and complimented on how they are well taken care of. Community Development Assistant Tim Erickson affirmed that the proposed rates are compatible with area campgrounds researched, with some of the other local campgrounds having higher rates to reflect the different amenities offered.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to adopt the 2022 Curry Park Campground Rates as presented to the Commission. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- J. Discuss and consider approving agreement with Coleman Engineering for professional engineering services for the 2022 Sewer Lining Project.

City Manager Scott Erickson addressed the map distributed for the Commissioners indicating the sewer lines and the proposed lining locations. The underground lining process is completed with minimal disruption of the downtown businesses. Locations mapped out are the streets downtown as well as Pewabic and Francis Streets. Coleman Engineering will put together the design work on this, and it will hopefully be constructed this summer. Mr. Erickson also introduced Cory Niemela of Coleman Engineering who will be involved in this project and other projects going forward with Coleman Engineering.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve agreement with Coleman Engineering for professional engineering services for the 2022 Sewer Lining Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- K. Discuss and consider authorizing bids for Fire Hydrant Replacement Project.

Utility Manager Bob Tervonen confirmed the request to authorize bids, noting fire hydrant replacement has been ongoing, and there are still 25 old hydrants left to be replaced. He is requesting approval to advertise to bid to replace 10 of the fire hydrants, to be replaced during the 2022 construction season. Funds for the project will come out of the water utility fund.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, and carried to authorize bids for the Fire Hydrant Replacement Project.*

- L. Discuss and consider approving the sale of Ironwood Public Safety Department duty weapon (Lieutenant Adam Clemens) to the Ironwood Professional Police Association for \$1.00 to be presented to Lieutenant Adam Clemens upon his upcoming retirement.

Ironwood Public Safety Department Director Andrew DiGiorgio noted the practice in the past is to purchase and provide the duty weapon upon retirement of an officer. Commissioner Andresen requested an estimated cost for the weapon. Director DiGiorgio noted you have the option of the side arm or the concealed weapon. They have chosen to present the concealed weapon and stated it cost approximately \$284 five to seven years ago when purchased, and it has a 10-year life expectancy.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to approve the sale of Ironwood Public Safety Department duty weapon (Lieutenant Adam Clemens) to the Ironwood Professional Police Association for \$1.00 to be presented to Lieutenant Adam Clemens upon his upcoming retirement. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- M. Discuss and consider approving purchase of firefighting gear for the Ironwood Public Safety Department (IPSD).

Ironwood Public Safety Department Director Andrew DiGiorgio addressed the standard process of every year looking to replace equipment. The equipment required to outfit staff is National

Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliant. Fire gear has a 10-year life expectancy, and only a handful of companies produce this equipment. He is looking for approval to purchase 3 sets of turn out gear and some gloves, and tags. These are within the budget.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, and carried to authorize the purchase of firefighting gear for the Ironwood Public Safety Department (IPSD). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. Mayor's Appointment.

With one current vacancy and applications on file, Mayor Corcoran appointed William Thomason to replace Mae Moderson for the vacancy on the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board for a 3-year term (term expiring October 31, 2023).

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried to approve Mayor's appointment of William Thomason to replace Mae Moderson for the vacancy on the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board for a 3-year term (term expiring October 31, 2023).*

O. Manager's Report.

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

- * The City Community Development office has been notified by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) that the City will be the recipient of up to \$45,000.00 for a continuation of the housing rehabilitation program. This amount will be used (with owner match) to potentially rehabilitate the exterior of three residential properties in the Douglas/Curry neighborhood. Any questions on the program can be directed to Tim Erickson in the Community Development office.
- * The City DPW staff will be focusing on snow removal and hauling this week unless snow plowing becomes necessary. It sounds like we are at about 145 inches of snow so far this season. The plan is to pull snow on US 2 Thursday into Friday.
- * Upcoming City Commission workshops are scheduled as follows: 1) Prior to the Monday, March 14, 2022 - City Commission meeting for a combined workshop with the Planning Commission to further discuss the new Zoning Ordinance items, 2) Monday, March 21, 2022, for a City Commission Goal Setting Workshop.
- * The City Assessor and Board of Review will be holding the annual Board of Review for the public, March 7-11, 2022.
- * First Friday this Friday. Stores are open with different activities happening as well. Encourage people to come out and check out the downtown area.
- * Commissioner Mildren noted the progression and phases of the water and sewer projects. Four phases of major water and sewer projects are complete now. Commissioner Mildren questioned Mr. Erickson, noting this is the second coldest winter in 30 years and how has it affected water lines. Utility Manager Bob Tervonen was also present and stated it's not bad with most issues occurring with crawl spaces and unheated basements at the beginning of winter. The frost is 4 ½ feet deep. There are some freeze-ups here and there which is isolated now compared to 15 years ago where blocks and blocks of the city residents needed

to run water. This is eliminated now with larger mains and better flows. Commissioner Mildren noted the goal setting was all set to improve the City, and it's been working. Mr. Tervonen stated in the past there were credits for 30 million gallons of water. In recent years, it is a million gallons a season or less. It is a significant change with a savings on our costs. There are also significantly less water main breaks, which used to average 50-70 a year, that are now 15-25 a year. It has helped a lot. Commissioner Korpela questioned if there is a deeper, quicker freeze if there is bare ground versus snow, i.e., residents plowing the snow away in their yards. City Manager Scott Erickson affirmed it is a deeper freeze if there isn't snow cover insulating the ground.

P. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren stated while we are in the beautiful Memorial Building, there is a conflict in Europe. He is sending support and prayers for peace in this world and the people of Ukraine.

Q. Consider Closed Session to:

1. Discuss AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement negotiations.
2. Consultation with City Attorney regarding update in connection with specific litigation pursuant to MCL 15.286(e).

***Motion** was made by Korpela, seconded by Andresen, to enter closed session at 6:03 p.m. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

R. Return to Open Session.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried to return to open session at 6:37 p.m.*

S. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk