

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, March 14, 2022 at 5:30 P.M., along with a Work Session at 4:30 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, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: None.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda. *

*1) Approval of Minutes - Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2022.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2022.

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

D. Approval of the Agenda: Mildren, Korpela

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried to approve the Agenda as presented. Carried Unanimously

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

Mark Silver addressed item H. He feels parking is something that should be considered if approving two additional retail marihuana sites.

Louise Demasi addressed item H. She stated that the Commission decided they were going to wait 6-12 months before more marihuana sites are considered. She questioned when this decision was made and has that much time passed.

Tyler Varnedor addressed item H. He believes adding more retail facilities is a good idea because the only current retail business operating is very busy. He feels it would create more jobs.

Chris Dutray addressed item H. He thanked the Commission for allowing recreational facilities in Ironwood and said he is in favor of more facilities. He stated that it is about a 2 hour wait at the only current retail facility operating due to high demand.

Logan Stauber, 2 Pine Hurst Drive, Marquette MI, (via Zoom) addressed item H. He stated that he is the current owner of The Fire Station marihuana facility and that he is in favor of more retail facilities in Ironwood. He also said that he would like to open a facility here.

Ben Thompson, 414 Silver Street (via Zoom) addressed Item H. He asked that if more facilities are approved, that the Commission address the 25-foot setback that is in the current ordinance.

Mr. Ankur Rungta, 225 High Orchard Lane, Grand Rapids, MI, (via Zoom) addressed Item H. He stated that he applied for a retail license during first round and would like to open a facility in Ironwood.

Marshall Lioni, Colorado (via Zoom) addressed Item H. He stated that he is excited that the Commission in entertaining more retail facilities. He believes that they should postpone the decision until after all current businesses have operated for at least 1 year to see what the actual market looks like.

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

Louise Demasi addressed the Commission regarding the recent ice storm in our area. She suggested that we give something (i.e., gift card) to our DPW workers who responded when called out. She stated that DPW workers did a great job responding to the storm, and that they were chopping ice from catch basins so the water could drain from the roads.

OLD BUSINESS

G. Discuss and consider approving easement to Xcel Energy along Penokee Road & Mill Street.

Stacy Westeen from Xcel Energy was present to answer questions from the Commission. Commissioner Semo expressed concern about negative impact on the non-motorized trail near Penokee Road. Mr. Westeen said he is willing to meet at the area of concern with those interested. Commissioner Mildren said that a resident of Norrie Location (Tank Hill area) is concerned about new power lines going up. Mr. Westeen indicated that that area will be updated/upgraded, but no relocation of poles/lines, and that he is open to questions from citizens. Mayor Corcoran asked if there are any issues with delaying the decision to approve an easement until all concerns are addressed. Mr. Westeen said that Xcel can wait until the next Commission meeting for the approval.

No action was taken.

H. Discuss and consider the Ironwood Planning Commission recommendation to add two retail marihuana establishment licenses based on the next two highest scores on the scoring rubric.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman presented a timeline of past discussion/action regarding marihuana facilities licenses:

- 6/2021: City Commission approved licenses.
- 7/2021: City entertained Planning Commission recommendation to add more licenses. City Commission decided to wait 1 year.
- 12/2021: Commission discussed allowing more licenses.

After that, Planning Commission made recommendation to allow 2 more retail licenses. Ordinance would need to be reopened, public hearings held, and action needed before moving forward. Per Mr. Bergman, the 4 top scorers from initial rubric were very close in scoring. The Planning Commission felt that since they were all so close, they recommend awarding licenses to the next 2 high scoring businesses. The two businesses are Fire Station, whose proposed location is the Old Western Auto building, and CPS Holdings, whose proposed location is 100 Cloverland Ave. in the old Black Bear business building.

Commissioner Mildren stated that Commission decided to wait until both retail businesses were up and running to see how things are going then. He reiterated the concerns expressed by current license holders about their business investments, and that they were based on the Commission's decision to only have 2 licenses.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Corcoran to move forward with Ironwood Planning Commission recommendation to add two retail marihuana establishment licenses based on the next two highest scores on the scoring rubric. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

I. Request for additional public trash cans and locations in the City of Ironwood.

City Manager Scott Erickson explained that this item is in response to a citizen's request to place trash cans in specific locations in Ironwood. He said that five locations are next to trails and pedestrian friendly. He stated that the cans presented are the same cans as used in the downtown. Putting a can at the Skateboard Park is not included in his recommendation as there are already current trash can(s) in that location.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to purchase additional trash cans as presented, at a cost not to exceed \$9,000. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

J. Discuss and consider authorizing bids for Curry Park Campground electric upgrades.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman gave overview of project, which is mainly funded with a grant.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried to authorize bids for Curry Park Campground electric upgrades.*

NEW BUSINESS

K. Discuss and consider approving the purchase of eight (8) fire hydrants for inventory.

Utility Manager Bob Tervonen explained that the City only has 3 hydrants left in inventory, and that hydrants have been backordered for some time. They are now available from a supplier at 2020 cost. This is the reason for the timing of this request.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to approve the purchase of eight (8) fire hydrants for inventory. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Discuss and consider introduction of Ordinance No. 534, Book 5, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 4, Section 2-188 through 2-194 to create a Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) of the Code of Ordinance, City of Ironwood, Michigan and schedule a public hearing for Monday, April 11, 2022 at 5:25 P.M.

Carol Erickson gave overview of the proposed committee and what the group has accomplished to-date. She explained that the HREC is the result of collaboration between Public Safety, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Team, and City representatives. The HREC is meant to be an advisory committee that helps the City management stay aware of equity, diversity, and inclusion issues going forward into the future.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela to introduce Ordinance No. 534, Book 5, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 4, Section 2-188 through 2-194 to create a Human Relations and Equity Committee (HREC) of the Code of Ordinance, City of Ironwood, Michigan and schedule a public hearing for Monday, April 11, 2022 at 5:25 P.M. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

M. Manager's Report

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

*Load limits going on soon.

*Republic Services have hired new drivers, who are learning the routes. Communication has improved, as well as the overall service. Citizens should continue to call City offices if they are experiencing issues with their garbage/recycling service.

*Wreaths have been removed from downtown street poles.

* City is working with the Ironwood schools to hang banners on City light poles of the seniors at Ironwood Area Schools.

* The men's locker room in the Memorial Building has been improved.

* Board of Review was completed last week. Thank you to the Board of Review, Jason, and Wendy for participating in this process.

N. Other Matters.

Commissioner Semo spoke regarding gift cards for DPW employees, which was brought up by a citizen earlier in the meeting. If the Commission is to entertain this, it should be an agenda item at a future meeting. Mayor Corcoran expressed her support of this. Commissioner Mildren commented on how well the DPW responded to the ice storm to open catch basins and sand/salt the roads. He also thanked Ms. Demasi for bringing this up and publicly thanked the DPW.

O. Consider Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268(h):

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to enter closed session at 6:31 p.m. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

P. Return to Open Session.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to return to open session at 7:16 p.m. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Q. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk