

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., along with a Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M. and 5:25 P.M. on Monday, March 28, 2022.

1. Mayor Corcoran called the public hearing to order at 5:20 P.M.
2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Andresen, Korpela, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran.
ABSENT: None.

3. Public Hearing: To receive public comment on Resolution #022-006, the Trust Fund Grant Application being submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman addressed proposed Resolution #022-006, stating that the Trust Fund Grant will be used to develop one (1) mile of lighted trail for the Aurora Loop Ski Trail at the Miners Memorial Heritage Park, to be utilized year-round. Approximately 25 lights would be installed as well as some enhancements to the Red Devil Trailhead. 78% of people surveyed in the Fall have utilized this park, and this has been identified as a primary goal of the Parks and Rec Committee for the past few years. Projected total cost of the project is \$158,500.00. The grant application portion is for \$110,900.00, which brings us to a 30% match of \$47,600.00. \$17,000.00 of the match would come from in-kind. The cash contribution would be \$30,600.00 and would come from the fund balance of the City's General Fund.

No additional comments received.

4. Mayor Corcoran closed the public hearing at 5:26 P.M.

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1. Mayor Corcoran called the public hearing to order at 5:26 P.M.
 2. Public Hearing: To receive public comment on Resolution #022-005, a special assessment for 110 E. Birch Street, Ironwood, MI for the demolition and removal of a blighted residential structure.

City Manager Scott Erickson stated this property was condemned previously by the City Commission. The property has since been demolished. The proposed Resolution #022-005 is for an assessment against the property. No additional public comments were received.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the public hearing at 5:28 P.M.

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- 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 of March 14, 2022.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2022.

b. Ironwood Carnegie Library Board Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2021, January 18 and February 15, 2022.

*3) Approve Sale of:

a. Ironwood American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #5-Flag Day Sale Fundraiser on June 10, 2022.

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

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, 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 February 28, 2022.

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 February 28, 2022 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for February 2022.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Monthly Check Register Report for February 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)

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

- I. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #022-006, submittal of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for development of the Miners Memorial Heritage Park Lighted Ski Trail Project.

The City Commission had no further questions for Community Development Director Tom Bergman following the Public Hearing at 5:20 p.m. Mr. Bergman did inform the Commissioners that June of 2023 is the scheduled timeline for awarding the grant.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve Resolution #022-006, submittal of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for development of the Miners Memorial Heritage Park Lighted Ski Trail Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- J. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #022-005, a special assessment for 110 East Birch Street, Ironwood, MI for the demolition and removal of a blighted residential structure.

Following the 5:25 p.m. Public Hearing, no further discussion on the proposed resolution took place.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela to approve Resolution #022-005, a special assessment for 110 East Birch Street, Ironwood, MI for the demolition and removal of a blighted residential structure. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- K. Discuss and consider approval of Change Order #5 to the 2021 Local Street Project with Angelo Luppino, Inc. to include the 2022 Local Street Project.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted to the Commissioners the map referring to the Change Order, specifically that Francis Street is a full rebuild. This work includes mill and overlay. In addition, the City Manager recommended one additional location that was brought to his attention recently, that being the alley easement through the Our Lady of Peace Church parking lot. The church is paving their back parking lot, which would make a gap on either side. The City is responsible for that 10 foot strip of alleyway. The church is asking the City to partner with them. The addition of the 10-foot strip to the project adds about \$12,000.00 to the cost. The total cost of the Project is estimated at \$160,000.00. Commission also noted the Change Order itself should have the contractor's name on it to coincide with Item K on the Agenda, stating the contractor is Angelo Luppino, Incorporated.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve Change Order #5 to the 2021 Local Street Project with Angelo Luppino, Inc. to include the 2022 Local Street Project, with the addition of the Our Lady of Peace alleyway. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- L. Discuss and consider Facility Use Agreement with the American Red Cross to provide disaster services.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted this is a standard agreement. We have always partnered with the Red Cross to use the Memorial Building in the event it is needed. Any extenuating costs are reimbursed by the Red Cross. Commissioners noted it has been used in the past and works well.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Facility Use Agreement with the American Red Cross to provide disaster services. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

M. Discuss and consider approving 2022 Bridge Inspections contract with Ayres & Associates.

City Manager Scott Erickson stated every two years the City is required to have inspections for the bridges under our jurisdiction, which include the Norrie Park/Dupont Road bridge and the bridge located on West Norrie Street. The contract with Ayres & Associates is for the purpose of the required bridge inspections.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to approve the 2022 Bridge Inspections contract with Ayres & Associates. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. Discuss and consider approving quote and authorizing Northern Wisconsin Fence to repair damages sustained to 180 feet of the Department of Public Works (DPW) storage yard fencing in the amount of \$3,800.00, with the cost of repairs being submitted as an insurance claim to the vehicle driver's insurance.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted there were three quotes received, with Northern Wisconsin Fence being the low quote. The City will be submitting an insurance claim for reimbursement.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela to approve quote and authorize Northern Wisconsin Fence to repair damages sustained to 180 feet of the Department of Public Works (DPW) storage yard fencing in the amount of \$3,800.00, with the cost of repairs being submitted as an insurance claim to the vehicle driver's insurance. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

O. Discuss and consider approving quote and authorize Fortress Fence to repair approximately 850 feet of the City of Ironwood Department of Public Works (DPW) storage yard fencing in the amount of \$6,899.00.

City Manager Scott Erickson addressed the additional maintenance and repairs needed to the storage yard fencing beyond the damage sustained from the vehicle previously addressed in Item N. Three quotes were received, with Fortress Fence being the low quote.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve quote and authorize Fortress Fence to repair approximately 850 feet of the City of Ironwood Department of Public Works (DPW) storage yard fencing in the amount of \$6,899.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

P. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #022-007 Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies required by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) authorizing City Manager to apply for any necessary permits.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted this is an update to our current Performance Resolution, consisting of a clerical clean-up by the Michigan Department of Transportation, to remove the term “Municipal Utility”, to be replaced with “Municipality”

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to approve Resolution #022-007 Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies required by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) authorizing City Manager to apply for any necessary permits. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Q. Discuss and consider entering into a collaborative agreement with the Gogebic Range Health Foundation for the submittal of a Great Lakes Sports Commission Grant Application for the development of the Mt. Zion Mountain Bike Trails, with a \$10,000.00 match commitment from the City of Ironwood.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman addressed the Commissioners, stating back in 2021 there was a collaboration to apply for a trail accelerator grant specific to mountain biking on Mt. Zion. As a non-profit, the Gogebic Range Health Foundation has offered to apply. The City will actually manage the construction of the project. They are asking the City to provide a match of \$10,000.00. The Ironwood Tourism Council as well as Gogebic Community College will be providing matching dollars for the project. The grant is for up to \$150,000.00, with \$50,000.00 to match for a \$200,000.00 project total. The question of maintenance was addressed. Gogebic Community College has indicated offering an outdoor adventure education program in the future as part of their curriculum. SISU Dirt Crew would also fall under the realm of trails they will maintain. The grant is due March 31st.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to enter into a collaborative agreement with the Gogebic Range Health Foundation for the submittal of a Great Lakes Sports Commission Grant Application for the development of the Mt. Zion Mountain Bike Trails, with a \$10,000.00 match commitment from the City of Ironwood. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

R. Discuss and consider reappointment of City Manager Scott Erickson and Utility Manager Bob Tervonen to the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Board and Authority.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to reappoint City Manager Scott Erickson and Utility Manager Bob Tervonen to the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Board and Authority.*

S. Discuss and consider approving employee recognition gratuity in the amount of \$250.00, recognizing the dedication and effort made by City Employees.

City Manager Scott Erickson stated this is follow-up from a citizen addressing City employees at the last meeting. Commissioners wanted to bring this back for discussion. It was noted that all staff go above and beyond, including the Department of Public Works (DPW), Public Safety, and the City Administrative Staff. The City Manager’s recommendation is for a one-time \$250 employee recognition for all 40 permanent employees. Commission discussed the procedure in future years, that something substantial should be given, could there be an increase in pay for employees, and other means to honor and recognize employees. The City Manager noted that

long term and perpetuity is something being addressed with the current union negotiations. This gratuity is being considered a one-time recognition opportunity.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela to approve an employee recognition gratuity in the amount of \$250,000, recognizing the dedication and effort made by City Employees. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

T. Manager's Report.

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

- * Thank you to the Commission on behalf of the employees, who will appreciate the gesture.
- * An update was given on the Water Treatment Facility. The consulting engineer is working on the final design. A final permit from EGLE is needed, and then it goes to Rural Development for final approval to go out to bid. The City Staff has a meeting Friday, April 1st with the consultant. This is a two-year project. Construction is scheduled for this summer through 2023.
- * Francis Street, between Lowell and Greenbush, is the other big utility project this summer. Coleman Engineering is going through the design, and it will go out for bid in a week or so. We will be getting the final permits on that. There will be a notice out to the neighborhood residents for an informational meeting open to the public, tentatively set for April 12th. Residents need to be informed as this will be disruptive while the project takes place.
- * The good news on Copper Peak receiving \$20 million in funding with the passage of Senate Bill 565 was discussed and what a great opportunity it is for the City of Ironwood and other communities in the area.

U. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren noted fundraising efforts taking place for the World Kitchen to feed the Ukrainian refugees as they cross the border into Poland. If anyone is looking to help, he wanted to mention this is a wonderful idea.

Commissioner Andresen wanted to address the volunteers for the Area Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and Little League. For the parents and friends who coach, thank you very much. He encouraged those interested to reach out. Now that it is Spring, these sports and activities begin.

Mayor Corcoran questioned scheduling a future workshop regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. City Manager Scott Erickson confirmed there would be a workshop, but the City Staff is waiting to hear news on some State-approved funding that should be released in the next week. The City Staff is looking for further opportunities with the ARPA funds. Mayor Corcoran also thanked the City Manager for recognizing the City Staff.

V. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk