

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, April 25, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. along with a Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M..

1. Mayor Corcoran opened the public hearing at 5:20 P.M.

1(a) Discuss and consider granting excused absence for Commissioner Korpela.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried to excuse the absence of Commissioner Korpela.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Andresen, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran.

ABSENT: Korpela (excused).

3. Public Hearing: To hear comment on proposed Resolution #022-008 to submit an application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for a Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI) Project to upgrade aging water and sewer facilities, including removal and replacement of lead and copper water service lines. (**FULL APPLICATION AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN CITY CLERK'S OFFICE & CITY OF IRONWOOD'S WEBSITE AT www.cityofironwood.org **)

City Manager Scott Erickson addressed the City Commission noting this was another grant opportunity for the City of Ironwood through MEDC. He also stated the City of Ironwood was working with Coleman Engineering on the submittal of the application.

Jeff Sjoquist and Miranda Tucker from Coleman Engineering stated the City of Ironwood qualifies for this grant opportunity since our community meets the 51% low to moderate income, being at 55.5%, and it would provide a community wide benefit. This grant helps with cutting the Inflow & Infiltration (I & I) in the City of Ironwood's sanitary sewer system and Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI). He further stated there was an 11% local match and does not include a certified grant administrator. It was noted this is a very competitive application process. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Bridget Ruppel commented (via zoom) and questioned if there is a list designating where street work and projects are located, and specifically where her neighborhood lies in that priority. City Manager Scott Erickson noted there are zones previously designated. That source of information can be made available. Bridget Ruppel referred particularly to the Gogebic and Lowell Street area. City Manager Scott Erickson stated Phase 5 may land within that area of the next project, but he would need to check. Phase 5 will be submitted through USDA Rural Development within the next few months, and she is welcome to check back to confirm the status.

No further comments were noted from the public.

4. Mayor Corcoran closed the public hearing at 5:39 P.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held in person and via Zoom for the Public on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 5:39 P.M.

A. Mayor Corcoran called the regular meeting to order at 5:39 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

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

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.*

*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting of April 11, 2022.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2022

b. Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2022, and February 7, 2022.

c. Ironwood Carnegie Library Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2022.

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

D. Approval of the Agenda.

***Motion** was made by Semo, 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 March 31, 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 March 31, 2022, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for March 2022.*

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to approve the Monthly Check Register Report for March 2022. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

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

Ben Thompson addressed the Commission regarding Item J, the City Commission Goals. He stated Commissioner Korpela's urban agriculture idea is extremely forward thinking and wise. He is open to urban agriculture as well. He also liked Commissioner Andresen's camping idea at Norrie Park. It is super insightful, forward thinking; and he noted he is willing to help with the vision and process.

Randy Kashich of 342 Lake Avenue addressed Item C. 1. regarding approval of minutes, specifically under Old Business and the Department of Public Works Wall Repairs. He questioned if this project went out for bids. City Manager Scott Erickson confirmed it was put out for bid, with the two bids submitted being Nasi Construction, LLC and Angelo Luppino. Inc. Randy Kashich expressed disappointment that there were not more bids submitted and felt it should have gone out for additional bids, was costly, and questioned if these repairs were covered by insurance.

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

Randy Kashich of 342 Lake Avenue stated to the City Commission that they must listen during public comments, and everyone has the right to make a public comment. He noted commissioners said they would wait a year before more retail marihuana licenses would be granted. He further stated that "marihuana owns the city now" and referred to the power of the attorneys for the marihuana retailers.

OLD BUSINESS

- I. Discuss and consider approving renewal of 1-year property lease agreement with Up-N-Smoke BBQ, LLC (Nathaniel Price, Owner) for use of vacant City owned property located at 238 Ayer Street, Ironwood, MI.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman communicated that in 2020 the City Commission indicated they would like to review the lease annually for the 238 E. Ayer Street City owned property to see how operations of the food trailer are going and be provided with an update on challenges, success, and the future plans. The updated lease agreement with Up-N-Smoke BBQ was presented for approval to the Commissioners. Further discussion took place on this matter.

Nathan Price of Up-N-Smoke BBQ also addressed the Commissioners regarding his plans to develop the lot, including utilizing the walking and ATV trails in the back of the property. He has purchased the adjacent building for future development. Further discussion took place. Community Development Director Tom Bergman confirmed there is no other interest in the property. The opening of Up-N-Smoke BBQ for this season is May 4th.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve a 1-year property lease agreement with Up-N-Smoke BBQ, LLC (Nathaniel Price, Owner) for use of vacant City owned property located at 238 Ayer Street, Ironwood, MI. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

J. Discuss and consider approving City Commission Goals for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Discussion of the list of City Commission Goals took place.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve and adopt City Commission Goals for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

K. Discuss and consider awarding bid to P. K. Contracting, Inc. for the 2022 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$34,095.00.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted the low bid of two bids was submitted by P. K. Contracting for the 2022 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$34,095.00.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to award bid to P. K. Contracting, Inc. for the 2022 Street Pavement Markings in the amount of \$34,095.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

L. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #022-008 authorizing submittal of an application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI) Project to upgrade aging water and sewer facilities, including removal and replacement of lead and copper water service lines and authorize Mayor to sign all necessary documents.

Commissioner Mildren praised City staff, noting they have been highly successful moving the City of Ironwood forward with these grants and opportunities.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #022-008 authorizing submittal of an application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI) Project to upgrade aging water and sewer facilities, including removal and replacement of lead and copper water service lines and authorize Mayor to sign all necessary documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

M. Discuss and consider approving garbage and recycling credit to residents.

City Manager Scott Erickson discussed Republic Services contract with the City of Ironwood as the waste and recycling hauler over the past few months. Based upon the City Commission's interest in potentially providing a one-time credit for residential customers to reflect the disruption in service, Republic Services has agreed to provide a 50 percent reduction for one-month service billings which would be directly passed on to the residential customers.

Recommendation is for the City Commission to approve the residential refuse and recycling credit as outlined and authorize the credit to be applied to a future monthly service bill.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve a garbage and recycling credit to residents, to be applied to a future monthly service bill. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

N. Discuss and consider Proclamation to recognize May 1 – May 7, 2022 as Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried to adopt Proclamation to recognize May 1 – May 7, 2022 as Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

O. Manager's Report.

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

- * Water Main Flushing is starting Sunday May 8th and will continue through the whole week. The City website has a set of maps by zone and date to look for your specific neighborhood. Door knockers will also be put out by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Thanks to the DPW for their extra effort.
- * City Clean-Up is scheduled this Friday and Saturday at Ironwood Public Safety. It will run from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Friday and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. This is a wonderful opportunity for people to bring a truck load, and he encouraged the community to use it. Residents can stop down, the dumpsters are available, and it is a great service.
- * Opening bids for the 2022 Local Water & Sewer Reconstruction Project will take place this week. This will be brought back to the Commission at the next meeting.
- * Bids will be coming in on May 13th for the water leak detection survey.

P. Other Matters

Clarification and comment on Compost Site Rates was requested by Commissioner Mildren. City Manager Scott Erickson stated the City spent a lot of time and money last year to clean up the area. For years it was not well-managed. For mulching, leaves, grass clippings, and any items classified as compost, there is no fee for residents. There is a small fee of \$5 per trailer or truckload set up now to dispose of large branches and trees. A company will come in to grind that. It's a large operation, depending on how heavily it's used. It is an expensive process costing \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00. The cost last year to clean it up was \$50,000.00. It needed to be changed and is not sustainable. It's a true compostable situation now. There will be nice soil to offer citizens in the future.

Discussion took place regarding recreational sales for marihuana. It was noted one retail store is currently open. The City Commission has allowed for two of those stores. Nothing has changed. The Commission has not voted or held public comment yet regarding additional retail establishments. Notice will be provided for a public hearing, to be scheduled at a future date, giving the public an opportunity for input going forward. It is still in process.

Mayor Corcoran stated now that it is spring, City Staff should retake a look at the blight ordinance, for extreme blight cases or repeat offenders. Since there is a spring cleanup this weekend, maybe reach out and remind those individuals that it is free to drop off on Friday and Saturday and take advantage of this opportunity.

Q. Consider Closed Session to:

1. Discuss AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement negotiations.
2. Discussion pursuant to MCL 15.268(h).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to enter closed session at 6:17 p.m. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

R. Return to Open Session.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried to return to open session at 7:17 p.m.*

S. Discuss and consider retirement transition plan for City Manager.

Commission pointed out they are comfortable with the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and their expertise in doing the City Manager search.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen to adopt the Retirement Succession Plan as follows:*

1. *Authorize amendment to the City Manager/City Engineer employment agreement to remove City Manager duties effective Monday, June 6, 2022. Amend employment agreement to reduce hours/cost as outlined in the Retirement Succession Plan Option B and authorize Mayor to sign employment agreement after legal review by the City Attorney.*
2. *Appoint Andrew DiGiorgio as Interim City Manager effective Monday, June 6, 2022.*
3. *Approve a stipend for the Interim City Manager in the amount of \$3.00 per hour.*
4. *Authorize Mayor to enter into a contract with the Michigan Municipal League (MML) to conduct an executive search, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00.*

Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

T. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk