

## 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, May 23, 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, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT:

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.\*

\*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting of May 9, 2022.

\*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Carnegie Library Meeting Minutes of April 19, 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.

City Commissioner and Mayor Corcoran noted that Item N will be removed from the Agenda to allow research of different options in relation to Item N.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried unanimously to approve the Agenda, with an amendment to remove Item N.*

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 April 30, 2022.

*Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, and carried to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending April 30, 2022 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for April 2022.*

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

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

G. Oath of Office – Interim City Manager.

City Clerk Wendy Hagstrom administered the Oath of Office to Interim City Manager Andrew DiGiorgio who will take over City Manager duties on an interim basis effective June 6, 2022.

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)

Louise Demasi made a comment regarding the use a of microphone and stated this was addressed at the last meeting. She noted the people in the audience are not hearing anything. She requested that everyone speak louder. Mayor Corcoran thanked her and acknowledged her statements.

J. PRESENTATION: Andrew DiGiorgio, Public Safety Director (RE: Recognition and Life Saved Awards to Ironwood Public Safety Officer and Beacon Ambulance Response Team).

Public Safety Director Andrew DiGiorgio and Mayor Corcoran presented recognition awards to Public Safety Officer Jamie Chiapuzio and Beacon Ambulance Paramedics Garrett Strobel, Kenneth Wyka, and Travis Yarger for the quick response to begin CPR and the delivery of emergency care which resulted in saving the life of Mrs. Ruth Nelson. Mrs. Nelson was present and personally thanked all of the responders.

Director Andrew DiGiorgio stated we are very fortunate to have the well-trained staff in our area. The fast response made a difference. The Ironwood City Commission thanked and recognized the individuals for their willingness to ensure the well-being of our citizens and visitors.

#### OLD BUSINESS

K. Discuss and consider awarding bid to McKim & Creed for a system wide Leak Detection Survey for the Municipal Water System, in the amount of \$13,500.00, using Water Funds.

Utilities Manager Bob Tervonen addressed the fact that a Leak Detection Survey was done two years ago. Three bids came back with McKim & Creed being the lowest. He checked their references, which all came back good. He stated he feels confident with them and requested approval to award the bid to McKim & Creed.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried unanimously to award bid to McKim & Creed for a system wide Leak Detection Survey for the Municipal Water System, in the amount of \$13,500.00, using Water Funds.*

L. Set Public Hearing for an Ordinance to Amend Article IV, Blight Prevention, Chapter 17-69, Notice to Remove or Eliminate Causes, subsection (d) for June 27, 2022 at 5:25 p.m.

Jason Alonen requested setting the public hearing to adjust some of the repeat offender section of the current ordinance and tighten it up a little bit. Actual text and information on the amendment to the ordinance will be provided to the City Commission in the next few weeks, prior to the Public Hearing date of June 27, 2022.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to Set a Public Hearing for an Ordinance to Amend Article IV, Blight Prevention, Chapter 17-69, Notice to Remove or Eliminate Causes, subsection (d) for June 27, 2022 at 5:25 p.m.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

- M. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #022-010 Declaration of Ironwood Pride Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity Celebration Month for June 2022.

Mayor Corcoran read the Declaration, proposed Resolution #022-010, as presented in the Agenda Packet. She thanked the group and individuals involved in putting together the Declaration as well as organizing all the upcoming events during June related to Pride Month. She also thanked everyone for their support.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to approve Resolution #022-010 supporting the Declaration of Ironwood Pride, Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity Celebration Month for June 2022. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- N. Discuss and consider Special Event Water and Sewer rates for Downtown City Square Splash Pad. (*Amended to Remove from the Agenda*).
- O. Discuss and consider water meter reading contract extension with R.E.D. Construction for five (5) years with a 2% annual increase.

Utilities Manager Bob Tervonen recommended extending the contract as presented. The contractor R.E.D. Construction has worked well, and he does not want to lose them.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to extend the contract with R.E.D. Construction for five (5) years with a 2% annual increase. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- P. Discuss and consider Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board recommendation for wage and benefit package for Civic Center Manager.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted the Civic Center will be advertising for Michelle Sivula's replacement after accepting her resignation from Civic Center Manager. Their Board's recommendation is to make the position description more in line with the seasonal work required, define the hours, and market the position. The Board has changed the wage from a salary to an hourly rate as a bulk of the hours are in the winter-time, with minimal in summer. They worked within their budget. Currently the wage equates to \$16 an hour, and they are looking at posting between \$25 and \$32.50 per hour depending on qualifications. Aligning this gives flexibility for the Board to add hours if demand is there in the summer. The Board's by-laws do require this to be confirmed by the City Commission. The Board wants to focus on renting the Civic Center out in the summer and explore bringing in new activities. With the right person in place, there should be

additional income. This is an attempt to find the person to move the Civic Center forward. Hopefully the position will be posted in a week or so.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve the wage and benefit package for the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Manager position. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- Q. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #022-011 Establishing Authorized Signatories for Michigan Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Contracts and Service Credit Purchase Approvals.

Finance Director Paul Linn presented information on MERS and the City's pension program, as well as additional plans offered to employees. The Commission will approve taking various action on service credit purchase approvals. This proposed resolution bypasses that 2-week period of waiting for minutes to be approved from a City Commission Meeting. An employee can sign, indicating the City Commission has approved the change, and then it can be submitted to MERS.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #022-011 Establishing Authorized Signatories for Michigan Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Contracts and Service Credit Purchase Approvals. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- R. Discuss and consider approval to submit Neighborhood Enhancement Program High Performer Mini Grant Request Form.

Community Development Assistant Director Tim Erickson addressed the MSHDA Neighborhood Enhancement Program funding. He requested authorization to complete the grant request form in the amount of \$30,000 to install a pickle ball court. He noted there has been ongoing discussion at Parks and Recreation Committee meetings regarding the need, and it is considered a priority by the Committee. Discussion continued regarding the space available at the current Patterson Courts area could accommodate up to two (2) pickle ball courts.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried to approve the submission of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program High Performer Mini Grant Request Form.*

- S. Manager's Report.

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

- \* The final approval on the Water Treatment Plant from USDA Rural Development is expected soon, and then it will go out for bids.
- \* The status of the Francis Street Project, awarded to Jake's Excavating, was addressed. City is waiting for a schedule from Jake's Excavating, and then it will be shared with the neighborhood.
- \* Downtown City Square concrete sidewalk replacements as well as changing out the logo where there are cracks will be taking place. They will be embedding a piece of steel that will rust; it is intended to rust. This process will start sometime in June.
- \* Mountain Bike Trail construction in Miners Park is under way. Flowtrack is working on it now. It will be a real nice addition to the park.

- \* Scott Erickson noted it has been an honor and real privilege to be in the City Manager seat and work with the commissions. He appreciated the support provided for him and staff, with everyone working together. He noted the City is in a good position. There is a good investment into community and private interest in the area, both commercial and residential. He stated the City is in good hands with Andrew DiGiorgio in the Interim position, and it will be a seamless transition. He said a “thank you” to the community as well.

T. Other Matters.

Mayor Corcoran addressed the 17 years of service from Scott Erickson. There is a long trail of projects. There is a master plan that has been followed, and he is leaving Ironwood in a better place and position than when he started. She thanked him and noted he has been immersed in the community, engaged, as well as being an active volunteer. He built a team concept with the staff and Commission, promoting collaboration. He has been diligent in taking time with the numerous grants over the past 17 years. He has made great strides in making Ironwood a better place to work, live, and play.

On behalf of the Ironwood City Commission, Mayor Corcoran presented Scott Erickson with a plaque in appreciation for his years of service.

Commissioner Semo noted he values the years of service Scott Erickson has given to Ironwood, stating he has gone above and beyond.

Commissioner Mildren echoed the same thoughts, and stated he believes in celebrating success.

Commissioner Korpela thanked Mr. Erickson, upon which time a photo was taken of the City Commissioners presenting the plaque to Mr. Erickson.

Commissioner Semo also wanted to comment that the mountain bike trails are spectacular. He noted that he attended the Michigan Municipal League Summit last Friday with Scott Erickson and Mayor Corcoran. It was informative and energizing. He encouraged the other commissioners to attend. Housing needs were discussed as well as ARPA funds coming up that are available. Commissioner Semo suggested workshop fairly soon regarding our concepts of ARPA funds.

- U. Consider Closed Session to discuss AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement negotiations.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to enter closed session at 6:25 p.m. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- V. Return to Open Session.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to return to open session at 7:24 p.m.*

- W. Consider ratification of AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement effective July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2024.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to ratify the AFSCME Local 1538 collective bargaining agreement effective July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2024, with funds to be allocated from fund balances. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

X. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk