

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held in person and via Zoom at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, September 12, 2022.

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:

- a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2022.
- b. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2022.
- c. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2022.
- d. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2022.

*2) Review and Place on File:

- a. DIDA Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022.
- b. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2021.
- c. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2022.
- d. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2022.
- c. Ironwood Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2022.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

D. Approval of the Agenda.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo and carried to approve the Agenda as presented.*

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

There were none.

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

Louise Demasi of 400 Silver Street asked each Commissioner to read over their Michigan Municipal League (MML) packet for the next meeting. She noted four to five people from the community will be coming to speak to the City Commission regarding the City Manager Search at the next City Commission Meeting on September 26, 2022. She stated the City Commission

advertised for a City Manager candidate who had business administration experience. The amount the City Commission approved for the Michigan Municipal League (MML) City Manager Search was to spend up to \$17,000.00. She questioned if they followed the requirements posted on the Michigan Municipal League (MML) website. She stated she will be researching the interview packets of the candidates now that she has that information available to her. She also noted specifically she will be reviewing their education and background.

G. City Engineer Project Updates.

City Engineer Scott Erickson gave an update on active construction projects in the City of Ironwood. The Public Works metal siding and door replacement project is complete and looks nice. The street patching and street paving projects are still being completed. Jake's Excavating is moving along nice on Lowell Street with the water and sewer utility project. Jake's Excavating is also working on the DWAM project. Investigatory work is now done. Interior service line verification is ongoing. The Mountain Bike Trail Project is at a little over 7 miles now. The City Staff will bring a request to the City Commission for a completion-extension to take the project into next year. With the grant, this should be fine. The Water Treatment Plant Project is broken up into two phases now. The consultant is working on Phase I now, and it will go out for bidding in January or February of 2023 for 2023/2024 construction. They will apply for funding through the State process as well as USDA Rural Development funding. The contract with Liquid Engineering will begin tomorrow for cleaning the water tanks. The Hemlock Street project south of US2 is going through the process of bidding. The Bid will go through MDOT, and the contract is on the agenda tonight. The project has been designed. The contractor for the playground equipment installation at the Little League Field should be here in early or the middle of October to do the build.

OLD BUSINESS

- H. Discuss and consider adoption of Resolution #022-022, and authorize the City Engineer to sign Contract No. 22-5390 with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) related to Federal funding for the North Hemlock Street Small Urban Project #22A0823 from Ridge Street to Highway US-2.

Interim City Manager Andrew DiGiorgio confirmed the North Hemlock Street Project and moving the process forward with MDOT as stated in City Engineer Scott Erickson's report.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to adopt Resolution #022-022, and authorize the City Engineer to sign Contract No. 22-5390 with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) related to Federal funding for the North Hemlock Street Small Urban Project #22A0823 from Ridge Street to Highway US-2. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- I. Discuss and consider approval of Pay Application # 4 to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC in the amount of \$87,778.29 for the City of Ironwood – Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) Project and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Interim City Manager Andrew DiGiorgio confirmed this is the 4th time it has come to the Commission, and it should be wrapping up shortly.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve Pay Application # 4 to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC in the amount of \$87,778.29 for the City of Ironwood – Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) Project and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- J. Discuss and consider authorizing Payment #7 to Flowtrack Mountain Bike Trails, LLC in the amount of \$29,126.87 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners Memorial Park.

Interim City Manager Andrew DiGiorgio confirmed information related to the Miners Memorial Park Mountain Bike Trails which was addressed by the City Engineer in his update report. Another great project for our community.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to authorize Payment # 7 to Flowtrack Mountain Bike Trails, LLC in the amount of \$29,126.87 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners Memorial Park. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- K. Discuss and consider awarding bid to Tiziani Sand and Gravel for the purchase of 3,000 tons of street sand for a total amount of \$29,670.00.

DPW Supervisor Bob Richards requested to award the bid to Tiziani Sand and Gravel, the lowest bidder.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to award a bid to Tiziani Sand and Gravel for the purchase of 3,000 tons of street sand for a total amount of \$29,670.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- L. Discuss and consider awarding bid to Tiziani Sand and Gravel for the purchase of 1,000 tons of ditch sand for a total amount of \$9,890.00.

DPW Supervisor Bob Richards requested to award the bid to Tiziani Sand and Gravel as the lowest bidder.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to award a bid to Tiziani Sand and Gravel for the purchase of 1,000 tons of ditch sand for a total amount of \$9,890.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- M. Discuss and consider awarding bid to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC for the purchase of 1,500 tons of road gravel for a total amount of \$16,830.00.

DPW Supervisor Bob Richards requested to award the bid to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC who came in as the low bidder.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, to award a bid to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC for the purchase of 1,500 tons of gravel for a total amount of \$16,830.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- N. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #022-024 governing the 2022 Comprehensive Deer Management Program.

Interim City Manager Andrew DiGiorgio noted a resolution needs to come before the Commission each year. The only change he is recommending would be to remove the Miners Memorial Park zone from the map, stating there are safety concerns for users of the park.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to adopt Resolution #022-024 governing the 2022 Comprehensive Deer Management Program. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- O. Consider request to transfer **remaining** Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (IFT) Certificate #2012-157 from Ottawa Forest Products to Manufacturers Pallet Disposal, Inc. (MPD) and schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 5:25 P.M.
(***APPLICATION FOR REVIEW IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE***)

City Assessor and Blight Officer Jason Alonen presented information on the request to transfer the IFT and the request to set a public hearing for Monday, September 26, 2022 at 5:25 p.m. The real property IFT has 3 years left, and the personal property has 5 years left. The application will need to be sent to the State of Michigan by the City if approved after the Public Hearing.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried to schedule a public hearing for Monday, September 26, 2022 at 5:25 p.m. to hear comment on the request to transfer remaining Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (IFT) Certificate #2012-157 from Ottawa Forest Products to Manufacturers Pallet Disposal, Inc., (MPD).*

- P. Discuss and consider authorization to bid for various sewer parts needed for the general inventory of the Sewer Department.

Utilities Manager Robert Tervonen addressed the Commission with a request to authorize bids for various sewer parts for the Sewer Department.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to authorize bids for various sewer parts needed for the general inventory of the Sewer Department.*

- Q. Discuss and consider authorization to bid for various water parts needed for the general inventory of the Water Department.

Utilities Manager Robert Tervonen addressed the Commission with a request to authorize bids for various water parts for the Water Department. Next year he will be coming back to ask for meters.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to authorize bids for various water parts needed for the general inventory of the Water Department.*

- R. Discuss and consider authorization to bid for a double line stop on the West Aurora Street water main.

Utilities Manager Robert Tervonen addressed the Commission with a request to authorize bids for a double line stop on the West Aurora Street water main. He noted they need a contractor to put in temporary stops so they can isolate the water main.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to authorize bids for a double line stop on the West Aurora Street water main.

- S. Discuss and consider awarding quote to Harma's Lawn and Property Services, LLC in the amount of \$5,825.00 for clearing along the 16-inch water main easement west of Lake Road.

Utilities Manager Robert Tervonen explained the need for clearing along the 16-inch water main easement west of Lake Road. He noted the difference in the two quotes submitted regarding the work hours listed. Using the quote from Harma's Lawn and Property Services, LLC this would be done in two phases. The work of clearing brush and small trees needs to be completed every five to six years.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to award quote to Harma's Lawn and Property Services, LLC in the amount of \$5,825.00 for clearing along the 16-inch water main easement west of Lake Road. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- T. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #022-023, MERS Defined Contribution Plan for the Civic Center Manager position.

Interim City Manager Andrew DiGiorgio spoke on behalf of Finance Director and Treasurer Paul Linn regarding the MERS Defined Contribution Plan that has previously been approved by the Civic Center Board for the new Civic Center Manager. This plan currently didn't exist in the City, and we need to make it available for the new Civic Center Manager.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to adopt Resolution #022-023, MERS Defined Contribution Plan for the Civic Center Manager position. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- U. Manager's Report.

Interim City Manager Andrew DiGiorgio verbally gave the Manager's report noting the following items:

* October 2nd – 7th will be water main flushing for the City. This is something that is done twice a year, and we are starting to see the results of that. Bottled water will be available at Ironwood Public Safety. City staff will notify the public, but he wanted to get the information out.

* The City-Wide Clean Up is this week, on Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. There is a great response from the community. He also noted he is

working with the Blight Officer Jason Alonen on getting blight letters out and helping them work through those processes.

* A couple of new businesses will be opening up. Kwik Trip is opening this week, and RIZE will be opening soon. The businesses will have a tremendous impact on our community. Both buildings have a nice design.

* Grant money that the City has received was addressed. One grant is 100% and is for \$3 million dollars to do lead service repair. The first part was investigation, and the City has this money to start replacing those lines with copper.

* The Wastewater Treatment Facility has received \$20 million in grant funding as well as a \$5 million low interest loan. This is not a total rebuild, but it can enhance what we have.

* The Battle of the Badges was this weekend, it raised over \$20,000.00, and Michigan finally won the softball game. It was a great fundraiser that goes to local non-profits and a great event well-received by both communities.

V. Other Matters.

Commissioner Semo wanted to add to Andrew DiGiorgio's information on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is a big deal. The whole plant is at or beyond its predicted life. We were facing a huge amount of work. This is extremely good for the area.

Commissioner Mildren wanted to publicly thank the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and Glenn Anderson for coming over. We were able to come up with a plan through them. He noted we had 10 good applicants that they narrowed down to five. Any of the five could have been City Manager. A contract will be announced one of these days, and that person will be the new City Manager. Any one of them could have been the manager. They all had the qualifications. The town will move forward with a manager. If he declines this, they have four other people that will be great. He was happy to work with the MML organization and Mr. Glenn Anderson for guiding them.

Commissioner Andresen addressed the semi-trucks on Lowell Street, which is currently cut off to the highway. The trucks were taking detours down other streets and took out some lines today. He is looking again to make sure semi-trucks are not going down Lowell and instead taking Business US-2. They should look at using the roundabout on US-2. He also wanted to make sure everyone is ready to discuss how the Downtown City Square will be used for ice skating. He would like a better plan set up and ready to go this year to have families down there and skating throughout the winter.

Mayor Corcoran noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee or DIDA could discuss the ice skating at City Square. Community Development Director Tom Bergman confirmed this. Mayor Corcoran again noted clean-up for the City will be Friday and Saturday. It's a great opportunity to drop items off for disposal. She was also excited to announce the new program and movie sponsorship at the Historic Ironwood Theater where a business or groups can sponsor

a movie. Commissioner Semo noted a new screen was put in this past year. A fabulous sound system has also been put in.

W. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk