

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, October 24, 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: None.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda. *

*1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2022.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2022.

b. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2022.

c. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2022.

d. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board Meeting Minutes of October 3, 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 Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried 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 September 30, 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 September 30, 2022 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for September 2022.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

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

Don Maki, of 132 Smith Street requested the City Commission reduce taxes. He felt the City of Ironwood should give any vacant property away at no cost and with no fees. Additional comments were received.

Louise Demasi, of 400 Silver Street questioned the City Commission regarding the new City Manager's 4 ½ year contract and when the previous City Manager/Engineer would be retiring.

Randy Kashich, of 342 Lake Avenue expressed his dismay with the City of Ironwood for not informing the public that the City of Ironwood receives credit when they apply for grants because the City has so many low-income individuals in our community.

Kurt Martel, of 424 Larch Street addressed the City Commission questioned when the City of Ironwood would be buying brushing equipment. He also noted he spent several hours at Norrie Park brushing.

I. AUDIENCE: Chris Larson, HDR Engineering
(Re: Update of Water Treatment Plant re-bid)

Chris Larson, Project Manager for HDR Engineering met with the City Commission via zoom to update the City Commission. Mr. Larson stated the City of Ironwood subsequently rejected the bids and decided to break the project into two phases to take advantage of the obligated Rural Development grant and loan. In Phase I the City would postpone the clear well, garage, infiltration basin, and not build the filters. The Phase I project will be a building a new pump station facility, with the capability to add water filtration, which would be Phase 2.

Mr. Larson also reviewed with the City Commission the schedule noting by the end of November the Phase 1 plans and specifications will be done 100%. The plans and specification will then go to EGLE and Rural Development for approval on December 1st. The bidding will then take place hopefully by February 16, 2023. Further discussion of this matter took place.

AUDIENCE: Jeff Wasley, Gogebic Iron Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager
(Re: Gogebic Iron Wastewater Treatment Plant update)

Jeff Wasley, Gogebic Iron Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager addressed the Ironwood City Commission with a power point presentation regarding the 20-year plan of the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Wasley stated that the plant was original designed for twice the capacity but under-designed for flow. He further noted the plant was built in the mid 1980's as a State of Michigan Class B facility and is regulated by EGLE. Mr. Wasley described how the plant works and mentioned that most of the processing equipment is out-of-date. The plant has operated 7 days per week, 24 hours per day for the last 37 years and EGLE has been pressuring

them to make improvements and begin raising money for such a project. This project would cost approximately \$25.21 million.

Plant Manager Wasley mentioned with the help of the American Rescue Plan Act funds, the CWRP approved a 2-million-dollar grant and 5.21-million dollar loan to the facility to replace old equipment and enhance their treatment process.

Mayor Corcoran asked Manager Wasley who the shareholders in the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Treatment Plant were. Mr. Wasley responded and stated the City of Ironwood has 72%, Ironwood Township 18%, and the City of Hurley with 10%.

Mr. Wasley also invited the City Commission to come and tour the plant next week.

Commissioner Mildren questioned Mr. Wasley if usage has risen would it improve the ability to receive funding. Further discussion of this matter took place.

J. City Engineer Project Updates.

City Engineer Scott Erickson updated the City Commission regarding the following projects.

- *The City of Ironwood has two (2) big projects that they will be dealing with over the next five (5) years such as the water plant, pump station, along with the treatment plant.
- *The Pump Station Project will be rebid and divided into two (2) phases.
- *The 2022 Francis Street Project is finishing up with landscaping.
- *A final payment for water main replacement will be approved tonight, which was under budget.
- *Jake's Excavating & Landscaping DWAM Project is finishing up with 10 properties left to be finished.
- *The Mt. Bike 8.5-mile project is wrapping up and will finish up in the spring in the dog park area.
- *Every two (2) years bridge inspection needs to be done.
- *The preliminary application for Phase V-Water and Sewer - Large Neighborhood Project is being submitted for grant funding.
- *The City of Ironwood Water Treatment Plant Phase I re-design and re-bid will be approved tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

K. Discuss and consider approving amendment to the engineering service agreement with HDR for the Phase I Water Treatment Plant re-design and re-bid.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen to approve the amendment to the engineering service agreement with HDR Engineering for the Phase I Water Treatment Plant re-design and re-bid. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Discuss and consider authorizing payment to Compass Minerals for 994,640 gross pounds of road salt in the amount of \$42,172.74.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to authorize payment to Compass Minerals for 994,640 gross pounds of road salt in the amount of \$42,172.74. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

M. Discuss and consider authorizing an additional 44.36 tons of Winter Street Sand delivered by Tiziani Sand & Gravel, LLC, and amend the final payment from \$29,670.00 to 30,108.72.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela to authorize an additional 44.36 tons of Winter Street Sand delivered by Tiziani Sand & Gravel, LLC, and amend the final payment from \$29,670.00 to 30,108.72. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

N. Discuss and consider authorizing an additional 46.07 tons of 22A Road Gravel delivered by Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC, and amend the final payment from \$16,830.00 to \$17,346.91.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to authorize an additional 46.07 tons of 22A Road Gravel delivered by Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC, and amend the final payment from \$16,830.00 to \$17,346.91. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

O. Consider approval of Pay Application No. 2 (Final Payment) for the City of Ironwood – Intersection Replacement Project to Ruotsala Concrete, Inc. in the amount of \$62,788.50 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to approve Pay Application No. 2 (Final Payment) for City of Ironwood – Intersection Replacement Project to Ruotsala Concrete, Inc. in the amount of \$62,788.50 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

P. Consider approval of Change Order No. 1 for the City of Ironwood – 2022 Sewer and Water Project to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC a decrease of \$2,372.20 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve Change Order No. 1 for the City of Ironwood – 2022 Sewer and Water Project to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC a decrease of \$2,372.20 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Q. Consider approval of Pay Application No. 3 for the City of Ironwood – 2022 Sewer and Water Project to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC in the amount of \$317,041.79 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen to approve Pay Application No. 3 for the City of Ironwood – 2022 Sewer and Water Project to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC in the amount of \$317,041.79 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- R. Consider approval of Change Order No. 2 for the City of Ironwood – Drinking Water Asset Management Project (DWAM) to Jake’s Excavating and Landscaping, LLC a decrease of \$22,733.59 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to approve Change Order No. 2 for the City of Ironwood – Drinking Water Asset Management Project (DWAM) to Jake’s Excavating and Landscaping, LLC a decrease of \$22,733.59 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- S. Consider approval of Pay Application No. 5 for the City of Ironwood – Drinking Water Asset Management Project (DWAM) to Jake’s Excavating and Landscaping, LLC in the amount of \$11,716.67 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen to approve Pay Application No. 5 for the City of Ironwood – Drinking Water Asset Management Project (DWAM) to Jake’s Excavating and Landscaping, LLC in the amount of \$11,716.67 and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- T. Discuss and consider authorizing Payment #10 to Flow Track Mountain Bike Trails, LLC in the amount of \$11,220.27 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners’ Memorial Heritage Park.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela to authorize Payment #10 to Flow Track Mountain Bike Trails, LLC in the amount of \$11,220.27 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners’ Memorial Heritage Park. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- U. Discuss and consider extension of General Services Administration (GSA) lease for an additional five (5) year period for rental space located in the Memorial Building, 213 S. Marquette Street and authorize Mayor and City Clerk to sign same.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve the extension of General Services Administration (GSA) lease for an additional five (5) year period for rental space located in the Memorial Building, 213 S. Marquette Street and authorize Mayor and City Clerk to sign same

- V. Discuss and consider approval of Interim City Clerk’s employment agreement.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to approve the Interim City Clerk’s employment agreement. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- W. Discuss and Consider adopting Resolution #022-027 scheduling a Public Hearing on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:25 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of Pha Xiong at 127 E. Oak Street (52-27-203-100) and 123 E. Oak Street (52-27-203-110).

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to adopt Resolution #022-027 scheduling a Public Hearing on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:25 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of Pha Xiong at 127 E. Oak Street (52-27-203-100) and 123 E. Oak Street (52-27-203-110).

X. Manager's Report.

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

- *The Department of Public Works (DPW) crews were called out during our first snowstorm and did an excellent job.
- *The Wells Fargo building is moving forward with the boat being moved by Greg's Towing.
- *Halloween this year will be Monday, October 31st from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Interim City Manager DiGiorgio thanked the City Commission for the opportunity to serve as City Manager and commended the City Staff for being so helpful and acting as a great team.

Y. Other Matters.

Mayor Corcoran and the City Commission thanked Interim City Manager Andrew DiGiorgio for stepping in to help the City of Ironwood as interim manager. Mayor Corcoran also invited everyone to the Historic Ironwood Theatre on November 11th to watch Top Gun.

Commissioner Mildren thanked the interim City Manager DiGiorgio and thanked City Staff for the great job they are doing on blight and working on the Iron Belle Trail.

Z. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 P.M.

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, Interim City Clerk