

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on February 10, 2025, at 5:30 P.M., in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood.

A. Mayor Corcoran called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:30 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioners Andresen, Korpi, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: None

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025.

b. Closed Session Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2024.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, 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).
There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G. Discuss and consider approving Rural Development Pay Package #19 in the amount of \$152,196.56 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve Rural Development Pay Package #19 in the amount of \$152,196.56 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

H. Discuss and consider approving Payment #2, for C.D. Smith Construction, in the amount of \$143,925.95 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve Payment #2, for C.D. Smith Construction, in the amount of \$143,925.95 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- I. Discuss and consider awarding a 2025 Asphalt Pavement Patching Contract to Angelo Luppino, Inc., at a cost of \$5.60 per square foot.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to award a 2025 Asphalt Pavement Patching Contract to Angelo Luppino, Inc., at a cost of \$5.60 per square foot. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- J. Discuss and consider authorizing staff to mail vacant homeowner letters to property owners identified in water usage study.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to authorize staff to mail vacant homeowner letters to property owners identified in water usage study.

- K. Discuss and consider declaring a Department of Public Works box blade as surplus property and authorize selling the box blade to the Ironwood Snowmobile Olympus for \$100.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to declare a Department of Public Works box blade as surplus property and authorize selling the box blade to the Ironwood Snowmobile Olympus for \$100. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- L. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-001, Ballot Proposal Language to amend the City Charter to change the City Commission Elections from odd year Elections to coincide with existing even year General Elections.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #025-001, Ballot Proposal Language to amend the City Charter to change the City Commission Elections from odd year Elections to coincide with existing even year General Elections. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- M. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-002, Ballot Proposal Language to amend the City Charter by changing the City Commissioner Terms to be staggered four-year terms.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to adopt Resolution #025-002, Ballot Proposal Language to amend the City Charter by changing the City Commissioner Terms to be staggered four-year terms. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- N. Presentation from Mike Foley, Site Manager, on the Copperwood Mine Project Update. Mike Foley, Site Manager, and Wynand van Dyk, Project Director at Highland Copper, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Copperwood Mine in North Ironwood and Wakefield Townships. The goal was to clarify some myths and concerns that have been circulating about the project specifically related to its environmental impacts. Following the presentation, Mike answered several questions from the Commissioners regarding the environmental and economic impacts of the Copperwood Project, both during its operation and after it concludes.

Mike and Wynand assured the Commissioners and public that Highland Copper is committed to maintaining high environmental standards and is required to adhere to all safety and conservation regulations set by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. They also expressed confidence in the mine opening, estimating that it will be in operation for approximately 11 years and create over 300 jobs during its lifespan.

O. Manager's Report.

In the excused absence of City Manager Paul Anderson, Clerk Jen Jacobson verbally presented the City Manager's Report as prepared by Paul:

Engineering Updates

- *\$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. Our operator and the project staff are working through a off-gassing issue on the chlorine feed pump. Once this issue is resolved, we will be issuing the Substantial Completion certification and be switching over to 100% use of the new Phase 1 water pumping station.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant is underway. CD Smith continues form work of the concrete filter walls on the interior of the building. Many items for Phase 2 construction are going through the submittal and ordering process timeline right now. Once the frost leaves the ground this spring, a lot will start happening with the construction of the garage and the 250,000-gallon clearwell. A lot of the Phase 2 work will be completed by fall 2025 and all work is anticipated to be complete by spring or early summer 2026.*
- *Phase 5B \$11MIL water and sewer project the design is complete and we are in the final steps of obtaining USDA Rural Development permission to go out to bid. All permits are in hand and we hope to have bids due on March 20th or March 27th, with construction slated for early June if we can get through the USDA RD loan closing efficiently. Construction will occur over both the 2025 and 2026 construction seasons.*
- *2025 Small Urban Grant Project Update: \$375K grant will be split between these two projects:*
 - a. *Project 1 (\$625K): going to replace the water main and street on Superior St from US2 to the City boundary, will repave Curry St around the school*
 - i. *Permits are back and Coleman is working on final project details to submit to MDOT. Should be in either the April or May bid letting. Construction this summer and fall.*
 - b. *Project 2 (\$177K): Chip seal the following roads:*
 - *Greenbush north of US2*
 - *Frenchtown Road*
 - *Brogan St*
 - *Penokee Road*
 - *South Suffolk St*
 - i. *Burma Road: This project is fully approved by MDOT and will be on the April bid letting and construction will occur this summer.*
- *Our sewer lift station generator project is having the generator delivered next week. This should be fully function in approximately two weeks. A grant application has been made by the City staff through our insurance company to help offset the cost of this investment.*
- *Work on the Historic Ironwood Theatre's Community Spaces grant is still in process for installing a new stage rigging system. This work is being done by Angelo Luppino Inc and a subcontractor of theirs who specializes in this type of work. The project is going well.*
- *Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Xcel is moving a gas line that is in the way of the building addition. Ruotsala Construction then plans to start building construction around 3/15/25. The project construction will continue through summer 2025 with completion in the spring of 2026.*

- *Projects on hold for winter season:*
 - a. *Jakes worked on the \$598,000 TMF grant for about two months in Nov and Dec 2024. They then shut down for the season. This is identifying material types of water services on ~520 unknown water services. So far, they have found 7 galvanized/lead lines out of the first 249 lines: the rest were copper. This is good news for our long-term liability of number of services that need to be replaced.*
 - b. *The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project with Jakes Excavating is shut down for the winter season. To date, we have changed out 253 galvanized lines out with Copper. Another 163 lines were suspected to be galvanized but were found to be Copper.*
 - c. *Phase 5A water system project is on hold for the season. Remaining work for next year consists of getting grass to grow, raising a couple of hydrants, paving the second lift of asphalt and other miscellaneous work.*
 - d. *Curry Park Campground: Next spring DPW will work on getting grass to grow and needs to install a couple of trees/shrubs. Next year DPW will pave some of the spaces that were left by the removal of the bathroom exterior walls.*

Managers Updates

- *The Scanning Temp Hire Carly Rusch started on 2/3/25 and had a fantastic first week organizing the thousands of maps that we are going to digitize. She is working hand in hand with Bob Tervonen and this week she will begin the scanning process.*
- *HKGI is working on the Comp plan and the housing plan. Another survey is about to be started for different subject area: infrastructure, housing, downtown, goals and strategies, etc, etc. They are drafting the plans. We should be seeing drafts plans in next month.*
- *City Commission goals work session planned for 2/24/25 at approximately 4:30 PM. Staff will send out notification ahead of time.*

P. Other Matters.

Commissioner Semo requested to be excused from the February 24, and March 10, 2025, meetings.


Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to excuse Commissioner Korpi from the February 12, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Mildren thanked all of the volunteers who participated in the Norrie Club's Annual Fireworks and Christmas Tree Burn that took place on February 1. It was a fun and well-attended event.

Q. Adjournment.

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


Kim Corcoran, Mayor


Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk