

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on February 24, 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, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: Commissioner Semo (excused)

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2025.

b. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Resolution #025-003, 2025 Poverty Exemption Resolution.

b. Ironwood Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2024, September 4, 2024, November 6, 2024, and January 8, 2025.

c. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2025.

d. Ironwood Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2025.

e. Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to amend the Agenda by adding New Business Item P. Discuss and consider approval of the Operating Budget and Projected Cash Flow associated with the City of Ironwood Phase 5 Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents as presented.

E. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve the Check Register Report for January 2025 as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

F. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit). Carol Erickson, HREC, discussed Agenda Item O. stating that there should have been a small request for funding included in with that Agenda item.

G. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit). Randy Kashich discussed the need to submit a Freedom of Information Act Request to obtain the Contract for Jake's Excavating, the project restoration not being complete on Lake Avenue, and the vehicles/surplus equipment that are parked by Ironwood Public Safety and the DPW Garage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- H. Discuss and consider awarding the 2025 Curry Street Curb Partial Replacement bid to Ruotsala Construction Inc., for \$58,651.50.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to award the 2025 Curry Street Curb Partial Replacement bid to Ruotsala Construction Inc., for \$58,651.50. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- I. Discuss and consider awarding the 2025 Parks Mowing bid to Bessemer Small Engine for \$7,695.00.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to award the 2025 Parks Mowing bid to Bessemer Small Engine for \$7,695.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- J. Discuss and consider awarding the 2025 Cemetery Mowing bid to Bessemer Small Engine for \$8,700 per cut (up to 6 cuts) per year.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, to award the 2025 Cemetery Mowing bid to Bessemer Small Engine for \$8,700 per cut (up to 6 cuts) per year. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- K. Discuss and consider Coleman Engineering's Proposal and Work Order #2, with a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$115,000, for additional Professional Engineering Services related to the \$3 Million Lead Service Line Replacement (DWSRF) Project.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve Coleman Engineering's Proposal and Work Order #2, with a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$115,000, for additional Professional Engineering Services related to the \$3 Million Lead Service Line Replacement (DWSRF) Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- L. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution Number #025-005, a Resolution to include the Suffolk Street Eatery in the Downtown Social District.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to adopt Resolution Number #025-005, a Resolution to include the Suffolk Street Eatery in the Downtown Social District. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- M. Discuss and consider authorization for the City to purchase property for the Southern Beltline Trail Acquisition.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to authorize the City to purchase property for the Southern Beltline Trail Acquisition for a purchase price of \$80,000 plus closing costs. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- N. Discuss and consider authorizing the hire of a full time Department of Public Works – Floater Position.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to authorize the hire of a full time Department of Public Works – Floater Position. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- O. Discuss and consider adoption of a Mayor’s Proclamation presented by the Human Relations and Equity Committee recognizing March 2025, as Women’s History Month; and March 8, 2025, as International Women’s Day in the City of Ironwood.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, to adopt a Mayor’s Proclamation presented by the Human Relations and Equity Committee recognizing March 2025, as Women’s History Month; and March 8, 2025, as International Women’s Day in the City of Ironwood. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- P. Discuss and consider approval of the Operating Budget and Projected Cash Flow associated with the City of Ironwood Phase 5 Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve of the Operating Budget and Projected Cash Flow associated with the City of Ironwood Phase 5 Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- Q. Manager’s Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

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. Concrete to be poured in about two weeks. 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 early to Mid April, with construction slated for June or July 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 get MDOT’s final approval to go out to bid. Hoping to be on the May bid letting through MDOT. 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*
- *Burma Road*
 - i. *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 has been delivered and is being hooked up this week. A grant application has been made by the City staff through our insurance company to help offset the cost of this investment and we should know more about that later this week.*
- *Work on the Historic Ironwood Theatre's Community Spaces grant is complete for installing a new stage rigging system. Bruce and the Theatre held a nice event last week to celebrate the completion of this project. We are super excited for them for the completion of this \$300K project that was a long time coming!*
- *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.*
- *Angelo Lupino is in the middle of constructing the walls in the clerks office and the assessors office. Work should be completed in a couple of weeks.*
- *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. There aren't many more that we can do with winter conditions about to set in. Coleman has submitted the MDOT ROW permit for the LSLR project for the 6 businesses on HWY 2 and Bus HWY 2. This was completed the week of 12/17/24. 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

- *HKGI is working on the Comp plan and the housing plan. Another survey is currently open for people to fill out. They are drafting the plans. We should be seeing drafts plans in next month.*
- *Marijuana money came in at \$291,143 vs the budgeted \$250,000. This is in our current Fiscal Year budget and we will soon be discussing budgeting for a similar amount for next year.*
- *The City is currently working to schedule a surplus sale of items in mid-late April. The City Commission already approved the 8 IPSD Items to be sold as surplus and a list of DPW and Memorial Building items is being compiled and will be presented to the City Commission for approval at the March 24, 2025 meeting.*

R. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren wished to thank all the volunteers who helped at the Yooperbeiner at Wolverine Ski Trails.

- S. Consider going into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a); purchase of real property up to the time an option to purchase of that property is obtained.

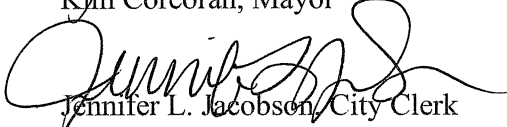
***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to enter closed session at 6:30 P.M. pursuant to MCL 15.268(a); purchase of real property up to the time an option to purchase of that property is obtained. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

F. Return to Open Session.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to return to open session at 7:22 P.M.*

G. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 P.M.*


Kim Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk