

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on March 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, 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 24, 2025.

b. Closed Session Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2025.

c. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes of February 26, and February 27, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of February 4, 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 Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.

E. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending January 2025, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for January 2025.

F. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
There were none.

G. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. Discuss and consider approving Rural Development Pay Package #20 in the amount of \$332,096.64 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Rural Development Pay Package #20 in the amount of \$332,096.64 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.

- I. Discuss and consider approving Payment #3, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$338,532.50 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Payment #3, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$338,532.50 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.*

- J. Discuss and consider awarding the 2025 Crack Sealing bid to American Pavement Solutions, Inc. for \$118,490.00.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, to award the 2025 Crack Sealing bid to American Pavement Solutions, Inc. for \$118,490.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- K. Discuss and consider awarding the 2025 Pavement Marking bid to PK Contracting, Inc. for \$43,994.10.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to award the 2025 Pavement Marking bid to PK Contracting, Inc. for \$43,994.10. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- L. Discuss and consider approving United States Department of Agriculture Form RD 400-1 Equal Opportunity Agreement and Form RD 400-4 Assurance Agreement for the City's New Fire Truck Purchase and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the United States Department of Agriculture Form RD 400-1 Equal Opportunity Agreement and Form RD 400-4 Assurance Agreement for the City's New Fire Truck Purchase and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign all applicable documents.*

- M. Discuss and consider approving United States Department of Agriculture Form RD 400-1 Equal Opportunity Agreement and Form RD 400-4 Assurance Agreement for the City's Phase 5B Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the United States Department of Agriculture Form RD 400-1 Equal Opportunity Agreement and Form RD 400-4 Assurance Agreement for the City's Phase 5B Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign all applicable documents.*

- N. Discuss and consider authorizing the City to seek bids for the Phase 5B (water and sewer) and 5C (water) Reconstruction Project.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to authorize the City to seek bids for the Phase 5B (water and sewer) and 5C (water) Reconstruction Project.*

NEW BUSINESS

- O. Discuss and consider approving the Mayor's letters of support for the Congressional Discretionary Spending requests for three squad vehicles and a grader.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the Mayor's letters of support for the Congressional Discretionary Spending requests for three squad vehicles and a grader.*

- P. Discuss and consider approving the City's updated Title VI Plan and designate the City's Human Resources Manager as the City's Title VI Coordinator.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to approve the City's updated Title VI Plan and designate the City's Human Resources Manager as the City's Title VI Coordinator.*

- Q. Discuss and consider adopting the City of Ironwood's Reasonable Accommodations Policy.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to adopt the City of Ironwood's Reasonable Accommodations Policy.*

- R. Discuss and consider adopting the City of Ironwood's Section 504 Grievance Procedure.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andersen, and carried, to adopt the City of Ironwood's Reasonable Accommodations Policy.*

- S. 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. The engineer HDR and Contractor are working to raise up the chlorine and phosphate tanks in order to address off-gassing issues that aren't allowing the pumps to function properly. 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 the middle of next week. 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 5C \$3MIL water project for reconstructing portions of Coolidge, Harding and Lowell St from US2 to Harding. This project will be going out to bid with bids due on March 28th.*
- *Phase 5B \$8MIL water and sewer project we are in the final steps of obtaining USDA Rural Development permission to go out to bid. We hope to gain permission to bid from RD this week and then have bids be due on 4/11. That schedule may get pushed back depending on bid approval timing from RD. 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. We were notified by our insurance company MMRMA that we are being awarded a \$50,000 RAP grant for this project. We are very excited and appreciative for this grant.*
- *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 3/17/25 with demo of the existing tree and the existing ramp. The project construction will continue through summer 2025 with completion in the spring of 2026.*
- *Angelo Lupino is nearing completion of constructing the walls in the clerks office and the assessors office. Work should be completed this next week once the door comes in.*
- *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

- *Seasonal weight restrictions were put into effect on 3/3/25 following the Gogebic County Weight restrictions.*
- *Surplus property schedule:*
 - March 24*** – *City Commission to approve Surplus Items List*
 - March 25 – April 3:*** *Start to bring items to a corner of dining area in the Legion Dining Hall. Storage only.*
 - April 9*** – *Post on City FB later afternoon*
 - April 10*** – *Newspaper Ad*
 - April 21*** – *Stage items for viewing in the Dining Hall of Legion.*
 - April 22 through April 25 & April 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*** – *View and Bid on items that will be placed in Legion Dinning area.*
 - April 23*** at 8:30 a.m. *Bid Openings*
 - Later day April 23 through 3:30 p.m. May 1*** – *Items to be paid for and picked up.*
 - May 2*** – *Remaining or unclaimed items to be removed from Legion to Memorial Building courtyard for Clean-Up Weekend or brought to transfer station.*

- *Surplus Large Equipment and Vehicles: IPSD and DPW are looking into coordinating an auction this spring. More details to come.*
- *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. HKGI is meeting with the City Commission and City Committees on Thursday 3/13/25.*
- *Bob Tervonen, Bill Tregembo and myself will be downstate next week Tuesday through Friday at the Michigan Rural Water Annual Conference. Jen Jacobson will be downstate all of next week at the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks for training.*
- *Interviews are being scheduled for next week for the DPW Floater position that is currently being advertised.*
- *Bob Tervonen will be retiring in approximately February of 2026. Since this will be a long process to replace his large role at the City and needing time for overlap for training, we are discussing starting to advertise soon for his replacement position, which will start sometime after July 2025.*
- *Budgeting process: Staff is currently working on preparing a draft budget which will be reviewed by the City Commission. We are shooting to have this prepared for a work session prior to the 4/14/25 meeting. I will stay in touch once this is confirmed.*
- *Community Exchange with Hancock, MI meetings are tentatively scheduled for 4/15 and 4/29.*
- *Gogebic County Land Bank Demo updates:*
 - a. ***634 E Ayer (Josephson's)** – They are working through the RFP demolition. They are aiming to have a contractor in place by the end of March/early April.*
 - b. ***456 E Tamarack** – They are working on the asbestos survey and plan to move forward with demolition this spring.*
 - c. ***210 S Suffolk (Northwoods Niche)** – Working on developer agreement with Catherine Brennen.*
- *615 E Tamarack: The City of Ironwood condemned this building and Lupino Construction demolished the building last week.*
- *IPSD began preliminary blight inspections today. They are going to start sending out letters and we are going to investigate the possibility of hiring out the blight cleanups to local contractors. This process will continue all spring, summer and fall.*

T. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren commented on another successful First Friday event in downtown Ironwood and commended the Mayor for reading the Women's History Month Proclamation to officially kick off Women's History Month.

U. Adjournment.

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

Kim Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk