

## Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on April 14, 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 March 24, 2025.

b. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2025.

c. Closed Session Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025.

b. Ironwood Carnegie Library Board Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2025.

c. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2025.

d. Ironwood Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2024, and February 5, 2025.

e. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of January 23, and February 27, 2025.

f. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2025.

3) Approve Sale of:

a. Ironwood American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #5 – Poppies on May 15, and 16, 2025.

b. Ironwood American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #5 – Flag Day Sale Fundraiser on June 13, 2025.

**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.*

G. Presentation: Doug Lein, Chief Operating Officer, Ironwood Lumberjacks Hockey Team. Doug Lein presented a 2024-2025 Season Update for the Ironwood Lumberjacks Hockey Team, citing several topics from Hockey Player's providing 3,500 hours of volunteer time within the Communities, the Marketing efforts, which include Travel Ironwood, increased social media presence by reaching over 1.6 million social media hits in 8 months. Doug thanked the Community for their support and also thanked the billeting families. The presentation ended with

*efforts shared how the Lumberjacks are gearing up for a very successful second season in Ironwood.*

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- H. Discuss and consider awarding the bid for Phase 5C Water System Upgrade Project to Jakes Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$1,813,030.22, and authorize the Mayor to sign the Notice of Award.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to award the bid for Phase 5C Water System Upgrade Project to Jakes Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$1,813,030.22, and authorize the Mayor to sign the Notice of Award. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- I. Discuss and consider awarding bid for the Phase 5B Utility Project.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to table action on awarding the bid for the Phase 5B Utility Project.*

- J. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #12, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$37,940.51 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Change Order #12, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$37,940.51 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- K. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #5, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$43,810.26 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve Change Order #5, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$43,810.26 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- L. Discuss and consider approving Payment #4, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$225,395.86 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 Korpi, to approve Payment #4, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$225,395.86 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.*

- M. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-007, a Resolution to rescind Resolution #025-001.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to adopt Resolution #025-007, a Resolution to rescind Resolution #025-001. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- N. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-008, a Resolution to rescind Resolution #025-002.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to adopt Resolution #025-008, a Resolution to rescind Resolution #025-002. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- O. Discuss and consider approval of the GCC Drive Access Easement Agreement to the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve the GCC Drive Access Easement Agreement to the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- P. Discuss and consider approval of Municipal Employees' Retirement System Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Amendments.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried, to approve the of Municipal Employees' Retirement System Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Amendments.*

- Q. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-009, a Resolution adopting the City's Earned Sick Time Policy.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpi, to adopt Resolution #025-009, a Resolution adopting the City's Earned Sick Time Policy. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- R. Discuss and consider approval of a \$30,000 contract for McKim and Creed for water system leak detection.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve a \$30,000 contract for McKim and Creed for water system leak detection. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- S. Discuss and consider authorization to go out for bids for a cold storage building at the Ironwood DPW facility.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to authorize the City go out for bids for a cold storage building at the Ironwood DPW facility.*

- T. Manager's Report.

*City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:*

### ***Updates***

- \$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. We have been running the Phase 1 pump station for just over a week now. Bill Tregembo is working with the Contractors to iron out last minor issues but it looks like we will be continuing to use the new pump station in perpetuity at this point.*
- \$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant is underway. CD Smith has made one pour 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 clear well. A lot of the Phase 2 work will be completed by fall 2025 and all work is anticipated to be completed by spring or early summer 2026.*

- *Phase 5C \$3MIL water project for reconstructing portions of Coolidge, Harding and Lowell St from US2 to Harding. Being awarded at tonight's meeting and work will likely start in early May by Jakes Excavating. We will have a neighborhood information meeting prior to construction.*
- *Phase 5B water and sewer project we are working through the bid award process at this time. Construction will occur during both the 2025 and 2026 construction seasons.*
- *2025 Small Urban Grant Project Update: \$375K grant will be split between these two projects:*
- *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. *Coleman is working on getting MDOT's final obligation of funds to go out to bid. Possibly get on the June letting (bid) through MDOT.*
- *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 we are waiting on the propane company to upsize the gas service line. Once that is finalized, we will complete the startup process and complete billing so that we can get reimbursed for our \$50,000 MMRMA RAP grant.*
- *Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Ruotsala Construction has begun with demo of the existing tree and the existing ramp. They will begin work on the foundation soon. The construction project will continue through summer 2025 with completion in the spring of 2026.*
- *Newport Heights water future project: Coleman Engineering is working on a Preliminary Engineering Report for a USDD RD and EGLE funding application.*
- *Our 24 sanitary sewer flow meters have been installed again for the upcoming spring/summer/fall season. We will be monitoring the meters and working with our vendor to analyze results as we get rainstorms this summer.*
- *I have been making phone calls and getting agreements set up for the remaining 14 roof drain disconnections that the private property owners need to have complete by July 1<sup>st</sup> this summer. The majority of the property owners have plans to comply with this requirement.*
- *A new State of Michigan Community Development Block Grant opportunity is opening for applications on 5/30/25. The City of Ironwood is on the short list of entities who are eligible to apply for water funding between \$500k and \$2MIL with a likely 25% match required. Staff has an idea of a project that would fit well under this grant program, but we want to attend the webinar on the grant on 4/30/25 before we move forward.*
- *Projects on hold for winter season:*

- *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 the number of services that need to be replaced. Work likely to begin again in the next two weeks.*
- *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 with Copper. Another 163 lines were suspected to be galvanized but were found to be Copper.*
- *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.*
- *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.*
- *Seasonal weight restrictions were put into effect on 3/3/25 following the Gogebic County Weight restrictions.*
- *Surplus property schedule*
  - ***April 24, 25 & 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 29** at 8:30 a.m. Bid Openings*
  - ***Later day April 29 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.*
- *Spring Clean-Up Days will be Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3.*
- *Surplus Large Equipment and Vehicles: IPSD and DPW are looking into coordinating an auction this spring. More details to come.*
- *The Utilities Manager position is currently open and accepting applications, until filled.*
- *The DPW will be starting our new employee, Jerry Hitter, on 4/21/25.*
- *Community Exchange with Hancock, MI. We will be meeting with Hancock in Hancock tomorrow. Mayor Corcoran, Tom Bergman, Tim Erickson and myself will be making this trip. Then two weeks later, they will be coming to Ironwood to share ideas and success stories.*
- *IPSD began preliminary blight inspections four weeks ago. They have started to send 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.*
- *The new fire truck has arrived. Staff are working on a press release and are installing new equipment on the truck. IPSD hopes to have the truck available at the next meeting (4/28/25).*
- *Social Security management from Escanaba called today and they are hoping to have a replacement for Shane (who retired) in place by sometime in May. This is not official by any means, but it would be fantastic news for our area residents.*

U. Other Matters.

*Commissioner Andresen requested to be excused from the April 28, 2025, meeting for a work commitment.*

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to excuse Commissioner Andresen from the April 28, 2025, meeting.

*Commissioner Mildren encourages the public to visit the Ironwood Memorial Building Foyer to read the informational posters of the Pioneer Women of Ironwood.*

V. 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 Semo, 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.

W. Return to Open Session.


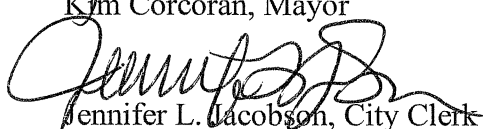
**Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to return to open session at 7:25 P.M.

X. Discuss and consider execution of a Purchase Agreement for 210 South Suffolk Street.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to approve a Purchase Agreement for 210 South Suffolk Street, as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Y. Adjournment.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

  
Kim Corcoran, Mayor  
  
Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk