

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on April 28, 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 Korpi, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: Commissioner Andresen (excused)

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2025.

b. Closed Session Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of January 14, and February 11, 2025.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

D. Approval of the Agenda.

***Motion** was made Mildren, seconded by Korpi, 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).
Cindy Niemi addressed the Commission on four properties that need to be looked at for blight, building, and code enforcement action.

G. Presentation: 2025 Blight Plans, Andrew DiGiorgio, Ironwood Public Safety Director.

IPSD Director DiGiorgio informed the Commission that the 2025 Blight Enforcement season has begun, with 14 notices sent out so far. He shared that the City is will likely use a third-party company as an option for property cleanups to speed up the process and avoid pulling DPW staff from other projects. IPSD officers have again been assigned to specific areas, as this approach was effective last year. Director DiGiorgio reminded the public that blight concerns can be reported to Ironwood Public Safety by speaking with an officer, calling (906) 932-1234, leaving a voicemail with an address or property owner, using Messenger, contacting city offices, or visiting the Public Safety building Monday–Friday, 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The Commission thanked Ironwood Public Safety for their efforts.

H. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

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 March 2025, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for March 2025.

I. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpi, to approve the Check Register Report for March 2025 as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. Discuss and consider approval of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Commission Goals.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpi, to approve the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Commission Goals. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

K. Discuss and consider awarding the Longyear Park Playground bid to Sinclair Recreation in the amount of \$74,000.00 for Option 2.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to award the Longyear Park Playground bid to Sinclair Recreation in the amount of \$74,000.00 for Option 2. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

L. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #13, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$10,330.33 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to approve Change Order #13, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$10,330.33 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

M. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #6, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$21,453.92 for the 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 Change Order #6, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$21,453.92 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

N. Discuss and consider scheduling a Public Hearing to hear comments on the Final Project Planning Document for the Newport Heights Water System Upgrades Project for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF – Water) Application at 5:20 P.M. on Monday, May 12, 2025.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried, to schedule a Public Hearing to hear comments on the Final Project Planning Document for the Newport Heights Water System Upgrades Project for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF – Water) Application at 5:20 P.M. on Monday, May 12, 2025.

- O. Discuss and consider scheduling a Public Hearing to hear comments on the USDA Rural Development Preliminary Engineering Report for the Newport Heights Water System Upgrades Project at 5:25 P.M. on Monday, May 12, 2025.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Semo, and carried, to schedule a Public Hearing to hear comments on the Final Project Planning Document for the Newport Heights Water System Upgrades Project for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF – Water) Application at 5:25 P.M. on Monday, May 12, 2025.*

P. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

- \$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. We have been running the Phase 1 pump station for a few weeks now. Some other additional work is scheduled for May and June to close out Phase 1 funding. This includes installation of a security fence, well rehab work and asphalt paving of the driveway around the water plant.*
- \$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant is underway. CD Smith has made two (of three) pours of 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. Soon the construction of the garage and the 250,000-gallon clear well will start. 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 5A water system project is on hold for the season. The 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.*
- Phase 5B water and sewer project - we are currently working through the bid award process. Construction will occur during both the 2025 and 2026 construction seasons. We are working on Change Ordering in the sewer work for the 5C project area, in this contract for 5B which has the sewer funding. We are also working on Change Ordering in some sewer lining work into this contract to use as much of the sewer grant money as possible.*
- Phase 5C \$3MIL water project for reconstructing portions of Coolidge, Harding, and Lowell St from US2 to Harding. This was awarded at the 4/14 meeting and work will likely start in early May by Jakes Excavating. We will have a neighborhood information meeting this Thursday at 5:30 PM.*
- The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project with Jakes Excavating is back up and running. To date, we have changed out almost 260 galvanized lines with copper. Another 163 lines were suspected to be galvanized but were found to be Copper.*
- Jakes is back working on the \$598,000 TMF grant. This is identifying material types of water services on ~520 unknown water services. They continue to find mainly copper lines. This is good news for our long-term liability of the number of services that need to be replaced. They expect to have this work complete in the next few weeks.*
- 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. This is on the June letting (bid) through MDOT. Construction should occur this fall.*
- *Project 2 (\$177K) (this summer): Chip seal the following roads:*
 - *Greenbush north of US2*
 - *Frenchtown Road*
 - *Brogan St*
 - *Penokee Road*
 - *South Suffolk St*
 - *Burma Road*
- *Our sewer lift station generator has been delivered and we are waiting on the propane company to upsize the gas service line. This was scheduled to occur today. 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 (any day). 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 USDA 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 completed by July 1st this summer. Most 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.*
- *Curry Park Campground: The next few weeks DPW will work on getting grass to grow and need to install a couple of trees/shrubs. 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. They are expected to go off in the next two weeks, with a current estimate of 5/12/25.*
- *Surplus property schedule*
 - *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.*
- *The DPW was happy to have our new employee, Jerry Hitter, who started on 4/21/25.*
- *Community Exchange with Hancock, MI. We met Hancock in Hancock two weeks ago to exchange ideas on community development. Tomorrow, they will be coming to Ironwood to share ideas and success stories.*
- *I would like to congratulate Jen Jacobson on obtaining her Level 1 Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk certification. Jen has been working for many years on obtaining the experience and training required for this certification. The City of Ironwood is fortunate to have such an experienced and now certified Professional*

Municipal Clerk. We are thankful for her every day for the job that she does and the leadership that she brings to our team here in the City of Ironwood.

- *IPSD blight update given earlier this meeting.*
- *Social Security management from Escanaba provided the following schedule for starting May 20th through September 2025: The office will be open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*
- *Good luck to the participants in the upcoming Red Bull 400 happening out at Copper Peak on May 10th – this should be another fun day! And it's super exciting that the \$20MIL construction project will be kicking off two days later!*
- *Spring Cleanup Days will be this Friday and Saturday. Friday hours will be from 8-2 and Saturday will be from 8-11.*
- *The Compost Site will be opening this Thursday. We will be following our standard compost site hours of Thursday 10-4, Friday from 10-4 and Saturdays from 9-2. We thank Dan Nelmark for coming back to be our compost site attendant.*
- *Curry Park campground will be opening on 5/21. Our DPW will be working on getting the water system up and running and tested in the meantime.*
- *Norrie Park and Mt Zion gates should now be open.*
- *Lastly, I will be out of the office next week, the week of May 5th.*

Q. Other Matters.

Commissioner Semo requested to be excused from the May 12, 2025, meeting.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to excuse Commissioner Semo from the May 12, 2025, meeting.*


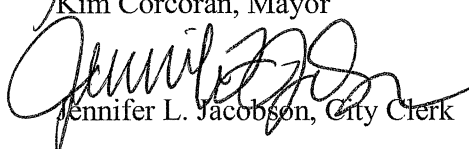
Commissioner Korpi thanked the DPW for setting up the nets at Patterson Park.

Commissioner Mildren shared an idea of having the City look into working with the Michigan Department of Transportation to create an Iron Belle access point at the Michigan Welcome Center on US2.

Mayor Corcoran thanked Tom and Andrew for their work on obtaining the City's New Fire Truck.

R. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 P.M.*


Kim Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk