

## Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Andresen and Korpi (excused)

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

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

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2025.

b. Ironwood Carnegie Library Board Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025.

c. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of February 6, 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 by Mildren, seconded by Semo, 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 Semo, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending February 2025, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for February 2025.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

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

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

H. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).  
*Lydia Christensen addressed the City Commission to introduce herself, share ideas on how to grow Ironwood, and informed the Commission and public that she is intending to run for Senate in 2026.*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- I. Discuss and consider authorizing the Mayor to execute Amendment Number 3 for Phase 1 Water Treatment Plant and Amendment Number 2 for Phase 2 Water Treatment Plant to transfer \$100,000 of the engineering budget from Phase 2 to Phase 1.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment Number 3 for Phase 1 Water Treatment Plant and Amendment Number 2 for Phase 2 Water Treatment Plant to transfer \$100,000 of the engineering budget from Phase 2 to Phase 1. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

## NEW BUSINESS

- J. Discuss and consider authorizing the DPW to purchase 500 tons of early salt and 200 tons of back-up salt for the 2025-2026 winter season as part of the MiDeal Road Salt Agreement with the State of Michigan Department of Transportation.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to authorize the DPW to purchase 500 tons of early salt and 200 tons of back-up salt for the 2025-2026 winter season as part of the MiDeal Road Salt Agreement with the State of Michigan Department of Transportation. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- K. Discuss and consider declaring the attached list of miscellaneous City office furniture and equipment as surplus property and authorize advertisement for bids to sell.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried, to declare 84 items that were presented as surplus property, authorize the advertisement for bids with a minimum bid of \$1.00 set for each item, and authorize the City to dispose of all unsold items.*

- L. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-006, a resolution to approve Contract Number 25-5095 with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the chip seal and permanent pavement marking project for portions of Greenbush Street north of US2, Frenchtown Road, Brogan Street, Penokee Road, South Suffolk Street, and Burma Road, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to adopt Resolution #025-006, a resolution to approve Contract Number 25-5095 with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the chip seal and permanent pavement marking project for portions of Greenbush Street north of US2, Frenchtown Road, Brogan Street, Penokee Road, South Suffolk Street, and Burma Road, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- M. Discuss and consider approving the purchase of a new 2023 Dodge Charger patrol vehicle in the amount of \$33,983 from Galeana's Van Dyke Dodge Ram.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve the purchase of a new 2023 Dodge Charger patrol vehicle in the amount of \$33,983 from Galeana's Van Dyke Dodge Ram. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. 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. The Contractor has raised up the chlorine and phosphate tanks to address off-gassing issues that aren't allowing the pumps to function properly. Now we are waiting for the pump supplier to address two other pump issues. Once these issues are resolved, we will 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 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 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. This project is out to bid with bids due on this Friday March 28th. We had 5 general contractors at our pre bid meeting last week.*
- *Phase 5B \$8MIL water and sewer project Is out to bid with bids due on 4/11 with the pre bid meeting is this Wednesday. 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*
  - *Coleman is working on getting MDOT's final approval to go out to bid.*
  - *Project 2 (\$177K): Chip seal the following roads:*
    - *Greenbush north of US2*
    - *Frenchtown Road*
    - *Brogan St*
    - *Penokee Road*
    - *South Suffolk St*
    - *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 has been delivered and we are working on whether we need to install a vaporizer or not. 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.*
  - *Angelo Lupino is 99% complete with the construction of the walls in the clerk's office and the assessor's office. We are just waiting on the door hardware to complete the project.*

- *Newport Heights water future project: Coleman Engineering is working on a Preliminary Engineering Report for a USDD RD and EGLE funding application.*
- *Our 18 sanitary sewer flow meters have been installed again for the upcoming spring/summer/fall season. We also ordered 6 more flow meters in order to continue honing in on our Inflow and Infiltration issues. Our sewer department has plans of performing some inspections on suspected sources of I&I this spring.*
- *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 1st this summer. The majority of the property owners have plans to comply with this requirement.*
- *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.*
  - *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.*
- *We are getting information from the State Attorney General's office about the process for which we will need to go through to go to Staggered Terms for the City Commission. We will be in touch soon with further information about the public process that will be required.*
- *The City has been attending some meetings with local community leaders from throughout the Gogebic County about the possibility of creating an Economic Development Office. The group is currently studying how similar EDO's are funded to come up with a proposed path forward. More information to come.*
- *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 late afternoon*
  - *April 10 – Newspaper Ad*
  - *April 21 – Stage items for viewing in the Dining Hall of Legion.*


- 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 Dining 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.
- 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. HKGI is meeting with the City Commission and City Committees on Thursday 3/27/25.
- Bob Tervonen and myself were downstate last week at the Michigan Rural Water Annual Conference. I want to say CONGRATULATIONS to Bob Tervonen for being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by MRWA. This is a very special award that is not given out every year. The City of Ironwood is greatly appreciative of all the work that Bob does for our community. We will soon be posting Bob's replacement position advertisement.
- Next week a few of us will be in Escanaba for the AWWA UP Water conference on Tues and Wed.
- We are in the final stages of the hiring process for the DPW Floater position. We hope to have this new person on board by late April.
- 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.
- IPSD began preliminary blight inspections two weeks ago. 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.

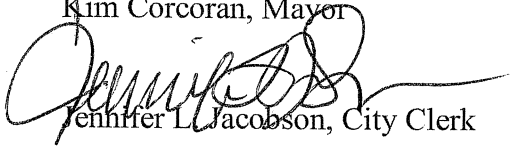
O. Other Matters.

Mayor Corcoran extended her congratulations to Bob Tervonen on his Lifetime Achievement Award.

P. Adjournment.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 P.M.

  
Kim Corcoran, Mayor

  
Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk