

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on May 12, 2025, at 5:30 P.M., preceded by Public Hearings at 5:20 P.M. and 5:25 P.M., in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood.

1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:23 P.M.
 2. Public Hearing: To receive public comment on the Final Project Planning Document for the Newport Heights Water System Upgrades Project for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF – Water) Application. Scott Nowak, Principal Engineer, with Coleman Engineering, reviewed the proposed project plans for the Newport Heights Water System Upgrades project and application for project funding. No public comments were received.
 3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:27 P.M.
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1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:27 P.M.
 2. Public Hearing: To receive public comment on the USDA Rural Development Preliminary Engineering Report for the Newport Heights Water System Upgrades Project. Scott Nowak explained this public hearing is a required hearing related to the Engineering Report related to the Newport Heights Water System Upgrades Project. No public comments were received.
 3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:28 P.M.
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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 April 28, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2025.

b. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2025.

c. Ironwood Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes of March 3, 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 Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.

- E. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).

Lydia Christensen addressed the Commission on Agenda Item O., asking the Commission to vote in favor of financially supporting the Ironwood Carnegie Library.

- F. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).

Lydia Christensen presented a policy to the City Commission asking that they consider passing a Policy declaring the City as an LGBTQ+ Sanctuary City and establishing the Community Autonomy, Rights, and Equality (CARES) Policy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- G. Discuss and consider approving the Rural Development Pay Package #21 in the amount of \$111,701.04 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve the Rural Development Pay Package #21 in the amount of \$111,701.04 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.*

- H. Discuss and consider approving Payment #5, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$630,568.72 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 Andresen, to approve Payment #5, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$630,568.72 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.*

- I. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-011, a Resolution approving the Final Project Planning Document for the Newport Heights Water System Improvement Project and designating the City Manager as the authorized Project Representative.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to adopt Resolution #025-011, a Resolution approving the Final Project Planning Document for the Newport Heights Water System Improvement Project and designating the City Manager as the authorized Project Representative. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- J. Discuss and consider awarding the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Upgrades Project bid to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., contingent upon the approval of Change Order #1, increasing the Contract amount to \$5,927,008.62 and contingent upon concurrence of award by USDA Rural Development.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, award the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Upgrades Project bid to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., contingent upon the approval of Change Order #1, increasing the Contract amount to \$5,927,008.62 and contingent upon concurrence of award by USDA Rural Development. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- K. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #1, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$2,048,760.64 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Upgrades Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Change Order #1, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$2,048,760.64 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Upgrades Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- L. Discuss and consider authorizing the Mayor to sign the Construction Contract and Notice to Proceed to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Upgrades Project prior to loan closing.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Construction Contract and Notice to Proceed to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Upgrades Project prior to loan closing.*

NEW BUSINESS

- M. Discuss and consider authorizing City staff to begin the process of filling the upcoming vacancy in the Department of Public Works.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to authorize the City staff to begin the process of filling the upcoming vacancy in the Department of Public Works.*

- N. Discuss and consider scheduling a Public Hearing to hear comments on the funding application to the Michigan Community Development Block Grant for a Water Related Infrastructure grant for the Old County Road Waterline Project at 5:25 P.M. on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to authorize the City staff to begin the process of filling the upcoming vacancy in the Department of Public Works.*

- O. Discuss and consider financial support to the Friends of the Library fundraising campaign for the library addition.

It was the consensus of the Commission to table action on committing a set financial amount to the Friends of the Library fundraising campaign for the library addition until mid-June.

- P. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Projects

- *\$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. We have been running the Phase 1 pump station for over a month 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 started back up. Topsoil work is mainly completed. Hydroseeding started last week and will continue this next week. Hydrants have been raised. Final inspection needs to happen still. 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. Temporary water is being installed. Surveying is taking place now.*
- *The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project with Jakes Excavating has started back up. They have installed around 8 or 9 so far this year. No work is occurring this week but will be going again in the weeks to come.*
- *Jakes is back working on the \$598,000 TMF grant. This is identifying material types of water services on ~520 unknown water services. 360 done to date. They continue to find mainly copper lines. 7 or 8 galvanized found this year, with 80%+ being copper. They expect to have this work complete in the next few weeks. We will have all our unknowns identified by the end of the project.*
- *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 July letting (bid) through MDOT. Construction should occur this fall or early next year.*
- *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*
- *The sewer lift station generator has been delivered and the City is 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.*
- *Mud Creek Builders has been hired by the City to replace the roof on the Curry Park campground garage and the Norrie Park bathrooms. The City is supplying the shingles for this project.*
- *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.*

Manager's Update

- *The City of Ironwood and Tim Erickson received the MSHDA Regional Impact Award for the work done through the Neighborhood Enhancement Program over the last several years. This program helped numerous low-income homeowners replace roofing and siding on their homes. Not only does this visually improve our neighborhoods but it improves people's lives. Thank you to Tim for making this program possible!*
- *The American Legion's Memorial Day Program will be taking place at 10am on Monday, May 26. The procession will start at the Memorial Building on Marquette Street. Proceeding West on McLeod Ave. to Suffolk St., North on Suffolk St. to the Veterans' Monument on Ayer Street (by the post office) where the Placing of the Wreath's ceremony will take place. They will then proceed on Ayer St. to Lowell St. then North on Lowell to Ridge St., West on Ridge to the Riverside Cemetery.*
- *The City's Surplus Equipment Sale is complete with \$1,176 being collected from the surplus auction. Items that were not sold have been disposed of or donated.*
- *The Curry Park Campground is scheduled to open on Wednesday, May 21 ahead of the Music Festival. Reservations are coming in daily, but we have plenty of vacancies for that event. The required water testing results came back today, as expected, with zero water quality issues or concerns. We look forward to a busy 2025 camping season!*
- *The Cemetery opened for the season last week and staff are working with 15 families on spring burials being scheduled.*
- *Seasonal weight restrictions were put into effect on 3/3/25 and taken off on May 9th following the Gogebic County Weight restrictions. We are now fully into construction season!*
- *The Red Bull 400 was held last weekend out at Copper Peak. There were roughly 750 participants and hundreds more spectators that attended the event. Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped put on the event and all the people from out of the area that came to Town for it. I believe today they are starting off preliminary construction work and will*

be having the official groundbreaking ceremony for the \$20MIL construction project on Friday May 30th at 2 PM.

- *Spring Cleanup Days were held on May 2nd and 3rd. It was another successful event with Friday 69 people coming through and Saturday had nicer weather with 91 people coming through.*
- *The Compost Site is now open. 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.*
- *Graduation banners were put up today. The City of Ironwood would like to congratulate all the upcoming graduating seniors and wish them luck after graduation.*
- *The next City Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, due to the City being closed Monday for Memorial Day.*

Q. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren commended the Red Bull 400 event, invited everyone to the Find Your North Music Festival over Memorial Day Weekend, and announced the City Square Splash Pad is now open for the season.

Mayor Corcoran thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Annual spring cleanup.

R. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 P.M.



Kim Corcoran, Mayor



Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk