

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on June 9, 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 5:20 P.M.
2. Recording of the Roll.
PRESENT: Commissioners Andresen, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran
ABSENT: Commissioner Korpi (excused)
3. Public Hearing: To hear comments relative to Resolution #025-015, a Resolution to approve changing the City Elections from November odd years to November even years coinciding with other State and Federal General Elections, effective in 2028, as a significant cost savings to the City. City Clerk Jen Jacobson reviewed that the proposed change to even years and highlighted that the change will save the City over \$9,000 every odd-year by eliminating the need for a standalone odd-year City Commission Election as well as increasing voter participation in selecting City Representatives since State and Federal General Elections statistically draw a larger voter turnout.

4. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:24 P.M.
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1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:25 P.M.
2. Public Hearing: To hear comments relative to Resolution #025-018, a Resolution to establish an Industrial Development District at 397 W. Aurora. Community Development Director Tom Bergman informed the Commission and Public that this is for tax related purposes only and does not change the actual Zoning at this address, which is allowable under the Zoning code. One comment from Garron Stenstrom, in favor of establishing an Industrial Development Tax District at 397 W. Aurora, was heard.

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, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran
ABSENT: Commissioner Korpi (excused)

- C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.
 - 1) Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2025.

- 2) Review and Place on File:

- a. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2025.
- b. Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2025.
- c. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2025.

Motion was made by Andresen, 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 Semo, and carried, to amend the Agenda to remove New Business Items O. Discuss and consider approval of Lighthouse Church Property Request, and P. Discuss and consider approval of Hope Animal Shelter Property Request.

E. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
Michael Meyer addressed the Commission in support of Agenda item O.

F. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
Garron Stenstrom addressed the Commission regarding blight notices for his properties stating he will need more time than given to clean up the properties.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #15, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$122,752.88 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve Change Order #15, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$122,752.88 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

H. Discuss and consider approving the Rural Development Pay Package #22 in the amount of \$125,757.71 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve Rural Development Pay Package #22 in the amount of \$125,757.71 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 #6, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$385,564.20 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 #6, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$385,564.20 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 adopting Resolution #025-015, a Resolution to approve changing the City Elections from November odd years to November even years coinciding with other State and Federal General Elections as a significant cost savings to the City.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to adopt Resolution #025-015, a Resolution to approve changing the City Elections from November odd years to November even years coinciding with other State and Federal General Elections as a significant cost savings to the City. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- K. Discuss and acknowledge the introduction of Ordinance Number 556, an Ordinance to repeal Chapter 21, entitled Photographers, of the Code of Ordinances, and schedule a Public Hearing for the June 23, 2025, meeting for 5:25 P.M.

***Motion** was made Semo, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to acknowledge the introduction of Ordinance Number 556, an Ordinance to repeal Chapter 21, entitled Photographers, of the Code of Ordinances, and schedule a Public Hearing for the June 23, 2025, meeting for 5:25 P.M.*

- L. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-016, authorizing the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and adopt the 2025-2026 Fee Schedule.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #025-016, authorizing the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and adopt the 2025-2026 Fee Schedule. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- M. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-017, authorizing the transfer of delinquent invoices for ordinance violations to the July 2025 City Tax Roll.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to adopt Resolution #025-017, authorizing the transfer of delinquent invoices for ordinance violations to the July 2025 City Tax Roll. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- N. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-018, a Resolution to establish an Industrial Development District at 397 W. Aurora.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #025-018, a Resolution to establish an Industrial Development District at 397 W. Aurora. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- O. Discuss and consider approval of the Strategic Housing Plan.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the Strategic Housing Plan.*

- P. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-019, a Resolution to approve Michigan Department of Transportation Agreement 25-5269 and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to adopting Resolution #025-019, a Resolution to approve Michigan Department of Transportation Agreement 25-5269 and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Q. Manager's Report.

In the planned absence of City Manager Paul Anderson, Clerk Jen Jacobson verbally presented the City Manager's Report as prepared by Paul:

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 three months now. We are working on spending the last of the contingency money by completing the installation of a security fence (which is now complete and being used), and then this summer we plan to do some well rehab work and asphalt paving of the driveway around the water plant. This will spend the remaining Phase 1 contingency funds.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant is underway. CD Smith is continuing with work on the concrete filter walls on the interior of the building. Excavation for the 250,000-gallon clear well has started and in the next month the excavation for the new garage will also start. Phase 2 work will generally be complete by fall 2025 and start up commissioning of the treatment process is expected to be complete by spring 2026.*
- *Phase 5A \$1.6MIL water system project has started back up after the winter break. Topsoil and Hydroseeding work is in process. Paving of Frederick Street is in process. Some of the cracked concrete throughout the job will end of getting replaced in the coming month or so. Paving the second lift of asphalt will occur this fall once all items are addressed.*
- *Phase 5B \$3.8MIL water and sewer project – Jakes has begun some of the installation of sewer work in the Phase 5C area on Coolidge Avenue. Jakes is holding the billing for this work until loan closing happens which is currently estimated to occur in July. Construction of Phase 5B will occur during both the 2025 and 2026 construction seasons. Phase 5B consists of sewer work on Coolidge, Harding, Michigan, Ridge.*
- *Phase 5C \$1.8MIL water project for reconstructing portions of Coolidge, Harding, and Lowell St from US2 to Harding. Water and sewer mains on Coolidge between Douglas and Greenbush are complete and now Jake is doing the service line work in that same area. They plan to work from east to west down Coolidge and then have a second crew do the same thing on Harding starting next week.*
- *The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project with Jakes Excavating continues with a separate crew from the Phase 5 crews. They have been focusing efforts on restoration and also digging some new service lines where the City is experiencing leaks.*

- *The \$598,000 TMF grant work continues by Jakes Excavating. This is identifying material types of water services on ~520 unknown water services. 460 done to date. They continue to find mainly copper lines. They expect to have this work complete in the next few weeks. We will have all of our unknowns throughout the City identified by the end of this project.*
- *2025 Small Urban Grant Project Update: \$375K grant will be split between these two projects:*
 - *Project 1: replace the water main and street on Superior St from US2 to the City boundary, will repave Curry St around the school. Budget was \$620K. Bids came in 22% lower than budget at \$482K with the low bid being Ruotsala Construction (\$2K lower than Jakes and \$213K lower than Snow Country). Project schedule will be announced once we have a Pre Construction meeting with Ruotsala Construction.*
 - *Project 2 - \$177K Fahrner Asphalt to start in July. They will chip seal the following roads:*
 - *Greenbush north of US2*
 - *Frenchtown Road*
 - *Brogan Street*
 - *Penokee Road*
 - *South Suffolk St*
 - *Burma Road*
- *Our sewer lift station generator has been delivered and we have training scheduled for 9AM on June 10th.*
- *Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Ruotsala Construction has poured the foundation walls and is preparing to pour the slab on grade next. The construction project will continue through summer 2025 with completion in the spring of 2026.*
- *Newport Heights water future project: Coleman Engineering has submitted the EGLE funding application on 5/15/25. The USDA Rural Development application is being worked on; waiting on Crystal from RD to provide information that will go into the application. Signs are that RD has grant money available, so we are anxious to get our application in for consideration.*
- *Staff is working on reviewing priority areas for sewer and water work as part of Phase 6. I will soon be suggesting that we start preparing a Preliminary Engineering Report for Phase 6 to get prepared for upcoming grant opportunities. We still have roughly 6 more "Phases" of neighborhood reconstruction work to replace the remainder of original infrastructure that needs replacement. Significant grant funding will be critical to be able to accomplish this work.*
- *Our 24 sanitary sewer flow meters have been installed again for the upcoming spring/summer/fall season. We recently read the meters for flow data and will be working with our vendor to analyze results.*
- *Mud Creek Builders has been hired by the City to replace the roof on the Currie Park campground garage and the Norrie Park bathrooms. The City is supplying the shingles for this project.*
- *Contractors have been busy with roof drain disconnections for the 15 private property owners that need to be disconnected by July 1st this summer. Most of the property owners*

have plans to comply with this requirement. 4 have been completed. 2 more are currently in process and should be completed in the next couple of days. Most have plans to be completed. Some of those may not meet the 7/1/25 deadline due to the contractor's schedules.

- *WRI grant application: State of Michigan Community Development Block Grant application was submitted on 5/30/25. We should find out in the next 3 weeks if we are awarded. We applied for a \$900K project with a 26% match for waterline work on Old County Road east of Country Club Road.*
- *Regarding the detour on US 2 by Hemlock Street for the catch basin that is washed out: MDOT is working on designing and bidding the repairs of that work and hopes to have the work complete by the 4th of July. On Friday 6/6/25, there was an additional MDO T catch basin that was found to be failing on US2 between Lowell and Lawrence streets. MDOT is going to inspect and come up with a construction solution this coming week. The City of Ironwood will be extending the lane closure on Monday 6/9/25.*
- *The Pavement striping on City Streets started today, PK Contracting will be in town for the next few weeks completing this project.*

Manager's Update

- *Ironwood Public Safety is actively working on blight efforts. In the coming meetings, there will be 10 public hearings for blight.*
- *Downtown flower baskets have been put out. Thank you to our summer workers for keeping them watered.*
- *Open staff positions: DPW Equipment Operator 2 Water position has been filled by recent internal hire Jerry Hitter. Jerry's previous position of Equipment Operator 2 Floater position will now be advertised internally and then likely externally for public hiring. Ironwood Public Safety also continues to have a Public Safety Officer position opening if anyone knows of a recruitment possibility.*
- *210 South Suffolk Street: We are awaiting the final report from OHM Advisors for the estimate of costs to rehabilitate this structure. We expect to have a special meeting of the City Commission and the DIDA on either 6/16 or 6/17 in order to make a decision of how the City of Ironwood would like to proceed on this project, in terms of rehabilitation or demo or other.*
- *Negotiations are scheduled to start with the IPSD Union representatives on 6/17/25.*
- *June 19th the City offices will be closed for the Juneteenth holiday.*
- *The filing deadline for nominating petitions for the elective office of Ironwood City Commission is 7/22/25 at 4 PM at the City Clerk's office. To qualify as a candidate, the petitioner must be an elector in the City of Ironwood and must obtain signatures of not less than 25 or more than 40 registered electors of the City of Ironwood.*

R. Other Matters.

Commissioner Andresen requested to be excused from the June 23, 2025, meeting.

June 9, 2025

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to excuse Commissioner Andresen from the June 23, 2025, meeting.*

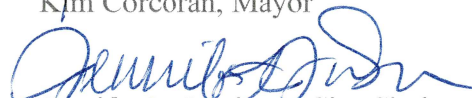
Commissioner Mildren commented on the June First Friday events stating it was another successful First Friday to officially kick off the Summer!

S. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 P.M.*



Kim Corcoran, Mayor



Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk