

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on May 27, 2025, at 5:30 P.M., preceded by Public Hearings at 5:15 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 5:18 P.M.
2. Public Hearing: To hear comments relative to the proposed 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget. Paul Linn, Finance Director/Treasurer, presented the proposed Budget and mentioned the City was informed by the County that there will be a slight Headlee rollback this year. Commissioner Mildren asked about the Headlee rollback. No comments from the Public were received.
3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:22 P.M.

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1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:25 P.M.
 2. Public Hearing: To receive public comment on the funding application to the Michigan Community Development Block Grant for a Water Related Infrastructure grant for the Old County Road Waterline Project. Kelsey Robl explained this public hearing is a required hearing related to the Old County Road Waterline project. No comments from the Public 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.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to recess the meeting at 5:32 P.M. for the purposes of moving the meeting from the Commission Chambers to the Auditorium to accommodate more people.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to resume the meeting at 5:41 P.M. in the Auditorium, first floor of the Ironwood Memorial Building.

- 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 May 12, 2025.

- 2) Review and Place on File:

- a. Ironwood Housing Commission Board Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2025.
- b. Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2025.
- c. Ironwood Carnegie Library Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2025.

Motion was made by Semo, 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 Korpi, 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 Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending April 2025, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for April 2025.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

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

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

Before opening the floor to public comments, Mayor Corcoran stated that she and the City Manager had discussed and researched the sanctuary city topic and have no interest or plans to consider becoming a sanctuary city. She added that a citizen submitted a copy of a proposed policy to the City Commission during the public comment period at the May 12, 2025, meeting.

Michael Meyer addressed the Commission in support of Agenda Item Q.

Clancy Byrne addressed the Commission in support of Agenda Item R.

Lydia Christensen addressed the Commission in support of Agenda Item R.

Anna Wakefield addressed the Commission in support of Agenda Item R.

Cathy Floury addressed the Commission in support of Agenda Item R.

Amy Nosel addressed the Commission in support of Agenda Item R.

Don Perry addressed the Commission on Agenda Item R asking that the City Commission consider a Veterans Month verses a Pride Month.

Gary Schmidt addressed the Commission on Agenda Item R.

Paul Porter addressed the Commission in opposition of Agenda Item R.

Steve Frank addressed the Commission on the Budget Public Hearing and in opposition of Agenda Item R.

Tim Bale addressed the Commission in opposition of Agenda Item R.

Martin Hollenbeck addressed the Commission in opposition of Agenda Item R.

Kelli Stanczak addressed the Commission in opposition of Agenda Item R.

Mike LaBo addressed the Commission in opposition of Agenda Item R.

Brittany Barkus addressed the Commission in support of Agenda Item R.

Brian Hockaday addressed the Commission in support of Agenda Item R.

Gail (last name unknown), addressed the Commission in opposition of Agenda Item R.

Sharon Schmidt addressed the Commission on Agenda Item R.

Scott Tanula addressed the Commission in opposition of Agenda Item R.

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

Tricia Shipley addressed the Commission in opposition of a Sanctuary City.

Christopher Superits addressed the Commission regarding people living in Ironwood while having non-Michigan license plates and citizens arrests.

Steve Frank addressed the Commission regarding the Sanctuary City topic.

Carson Simms addressed the Commission in opposition of a Sanctuary City.

Don Perry addressed the Commission in opposition of a Sanctuary City.

Bernie Smith addressed the Commission asking them to visit Norrie Park to see needed maintenance of that park.

Paul Porter addressed the Commission in opposition of a Sanctuary City.

Robin Simms addressed the Commission in opposition of a Sanctuary City.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- I. Discuss and consider awarding the DPW Cold Storage Building bid to Angelo Luppino, Inc., in the amount of \$279,447.00.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpi, to award the DPW Cold Storage Building bid to Angelo Luppino, Inc., in the amount of \$279,447.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- J. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #14, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$82,926.35 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve Change Order #14, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$82,926.35 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 #7, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$12,407.86 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, to approve Change Order #7, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$12,407.86 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 Change Order #1, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which adds the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy NPDES Permit No. MIR118622 the Phase 5C Water and Sewer Upgrades Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to approve Change Order #1, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which adds the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy NPDES Permit No. MIR118622 the Phase 5C Water and Sewer Upgrades Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

- M. Discuss and consider approving Payment #3, for Jake's Excavating, in the amount of \$61,908.65 for the TMF Water Service Exploration Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve Payment #3, for Jake's Excavating, in the amount of \$61,908.65 for the TMF Water Service Exploration Project and approve authorized signature to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- N. Discuss and consider approving Payment #16, for Jake's Excavating, in the amount of \$22,531.07 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, to approve Payment #16, for Jake's Excavating, in the amount of \$22,531.07 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- O. Discuss and consider sending a letter to Michigan Department of Natural Resources to withdraw from the City's Trust Fund Grant TF20-0129 Norrie Park Renovation and Montreal Water Trail Project.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried, to authorize the City to send a letter to Michigan Department of Natural Resources to withdraw from the City's Trust Fund Grant TF20-0129 Norrie Park Renovation and Montreal Water Trail Project.

NEW BUSINESS

- P. Discuss and consider approving a Settlement Agreement between the City of Ironwood and HDR Michigan, Inc. providing a \$32,427.66 credit to the City for related to modifications to the Chemical Feed Systems for Phase I of the Water Treatment Plant Project.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to approve a Settlement Agreement between the City of Ironwood and HDR Michigan, Inc. providing a \$32,427.66 credit to the City for related to modifications to the Chemical Feed Systems for Phase I of the Water Treatment Plant Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- Q. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-012, a Resolution designating the Upper Peninsula Arts and Culture Alliance as a Local Arts Agency to operate in cooperation with the City and to receive and subgrant funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Semo, to adopt Resolution #025-012, a Resolution designating the Upper Peninsula Arts and Culture Alliance as a Local Arts Agency to operate in cooperation with the City and to receive and subgrant funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- R. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-013 declaring June 2025 as Pride Diversity & Inclusivity Celebration Month in the City of Ironwood and authorize the Pride flag to be flown at the City Square during the month of June.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Semo, to adopt Resolution #025-013 declaring June 2025 as Pride Diversity & Inclusivity Celebration Month in the City of Ironwood and to authorize the Pride flag to be flown at the City Square during the month of June, contingent upon both Federal and State Governments adopting proclamations to authorize the display the Pride Flag. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- S. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-014, a Resolution approving a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for a Water Related Infrastructure grant for the Old County Road Waterline Project.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpi, to adopt Resolution #025-014, a Resolution approving a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for a Water Related Infrastructure grant for the Old County Road Waterline Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- T. Discuss and consider authorizing the Department of Public Works to sell several items as surplus equipment and supplies.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Semo, to authorize the Department of Public Works to sell several items as listed in the packet as surplus equipment and supplies. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- U. Discuss and consider authorizing the Department of Public Works to purchase a Kubota M62 backhoe, with cab, from Lulich Implement for a total cost of \$93,694.62 to be used in the Cemetery, declare the current backhoe, #83, a 1985 Ford 340B Backhoe with 3630 hours, as surplus equipment and authorize the sale of #83 with a minimum bid set at \$4,000.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to authorize the Department of Public Works to purchase a Kubota M62 backhoe, with cab, from Lulich Implement for a total cost of \$93,694.62 to be used in the Cemetery, declare the current backhoe, #83, a 1985 Ford 340B Backhoe with 3630 hours, as surplus equipment and authorize the sale of #83 with a minimum bid set at \$4,000. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- V. Discuss and consider authorizing the Department of Public Works to purchase a 2024 Chevrolet 3500HD from Jerry Haggerty Chevrolet for the cost \$69,522.00 to be used in the Water Department, declare the current Water Truck, #16, a 2013 GMC 3500HD 4x4 with 75,440 miles as surplus equipment and authorize the sale of #16 with a minimum bid set at \$6,000.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to authorize the Department of Public Works to purchase a 2024 Chevrolet 3500HD from Jerry Haggerty Chevrolet for the cost \$69,522.00 to be used in the Water Department, declare the current Water Truck, #16, a 2013 GMC 3500HD 4x4 with 75,440 miles as surplus equipment and authorize the sale of #16 with a minimum bid set at \$6,000. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- W. Discuss and consider granting a request for a “Special Water Rate” for the Gogebic County Fair from August 7, 2025 – August 10, 2025.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to authorize the discounted Water Rate as set in the City’s Fee Schedule at the fairgrounds during the Gogebic County Fair from August 7, 2025 – August 10, 2025. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

X. 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 two months now. We are working on spending the last of the contingency money by completing the installation of a security fence right now, 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. 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 and Hydroseeding work is in process. Final inspection will occur later this week and then corrections will need to be made, largely with concrete crack replacement. Paving the second lift of asphalt will occur last once all items are addressed.*
- *Phase 5B water and sewer project - we are currently working through the bid award process and waiting on a sewer permit from EGLE. Construction will occur during both the 2025 and 2026 construction seasons.*
- *Phase 5C \$3MIL water project for reconstructing portions of Coolidge, Harding, and Lowell St from US2 to Harding. Asphalt has been striped on portions of Coolidge Ave. Also today started the Business Route 2 detour and waterline tie ins.*
- *The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project with Jakes Excavating continues. This week they are focusing on restoration efforts for lines that have been repaired.*
- *Jakes is back working on the \$598,000 TMF grant. This is identifying material types of water services on ~520 unknown water services. 440 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 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.*
 1. *This is on the June 6, 2025, bid letting 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*
- *Our sewer lift station generator has been delivered and we have training scheduled for 9AM on June 2nd.*
- *Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Ruotsala Construction has poured the foundation walls and will be working on 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 will be going in soon.*
- *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 Currie 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.*

Manager's Update

- *The City changed to a new credit card processing system earlier this month which has been a great improvement in the Utility/Finance Department. It is a more efficient payment processing platform for City Services and saves residents money by paying a smaller credit card transaction fee.*
- *Ironwood Public Safety is actively working on blight efforts and reminding residents that blight/long grass concerns can be reported directly to Ironwood Public Safety by calling 906-932-1234 to report concerns and leaving a voice message including the address of the property if it's after business hours.*
- *You will see a detour on US 2 by Hemlock Street. That is due to a catch basin that 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.*
- *Thanks to all of those who attended the American Legion's Memorial Day Program yesterday. It was certainly a beautiful day for it. And thank you to all the US Military personnel who died while serving in the Armed Forces for the United States of America.*
- *The Curry Park Campground is now open. The improvements that were made last fall are very appreciated by the campground hosts and all our guests.*
- *The Compost Site is 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.*
- *Downtown flower baskets are going out soon. We always look forward to having those beautiful baskets out all summer.*
- *The Copper Peak construction groundbreaking ceremony is this Friday from 2-3 PM. We are excited for this project to finally get underway after almost a decade in the making!*
- *I will be gone for the June 9th City Commission meeting. Staff will be filling in for me during my absence.*

May 27, 2025

Y. Other Matters.

Mayor Corcoran commented on the beautiful Memorial Day Ceremony at the City's Cemetery and thanked the City Staff and the volunteers for how nice the Cemetery looked.

Commissioner Korpi requested to be excused from the June 9, 2025, meeting.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to excuse Commissioner Korpi from the June 9, 2025, meeting.*

Commissioner Semo thanked Paul and the City Staff for the work done at the City daily. Commissioner Semo also wished to thank Mayor Corcoran for running tonight's meeting very well.

Z. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M.*



Kim Corcoran, Mayor



Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk