

## Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on September 22, 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 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 September 8, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2025.

b. Department of Public Works Updates.

***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 by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to amend the Agenda to add Unfinished Business, item V., Discuss and consider approving Change Order #4, for Jake's Excavating, LLC., which is an increase of \$88,736.28 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.*

E. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

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

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

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

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

*Carol Saari addressed the Commission asking for infrastructure project updates by Coolidge Avenue.*

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

*There were none.*

I. Presentation: Certificate of Appreciation to Timothy Dean, retired City Attorney.

*Mayor Kim Corcoran and City Manager Paul Anderson noted their positive experiences working with City Attorney Tim Dean over the years and extended their best wishes to him on his retirement after many years of legal service.*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-048, a Resolution amending the Marihuana Grower License requirements for existing Marihuana Retail License holders.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to adopt Resolution #025-048, a Resolution amending the Marihuana Grower License requirements for existing Marihuana Retail License holders. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

K. Discuss and consider approving Payment #7, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$14,207.25 for the TMF Water Service Exploration Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to approve Payment #7, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$14,207.25 for the TMF Water Service Exploration Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #19, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is a decrease of \$26,489.00 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Change Order #19, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is a decrease of \$26,489.00 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

M. Discuss and consider approving Payment #20, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$54,700.28 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to approve Payment #20, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$54,700.28 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. Discuss and consider approving Payment #7, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$141,682.22 for the Phase 5A Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, to approve Payment #7, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$141,682.22 for the Phase 5A Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- O. Discuss and consider approving Payment #3, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$838,095.23 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve Payment #3, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$838,095.23 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- P. Discuss and consider approving Payment #4, for Jake's Excavating, in the amount of \$210,180.14 for the Phase 5C Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, to approve Payment #4, for Jake's Excavating, in the amount of \$210,180.14 for the Phase 5C Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- Q. Discuss and consider approving an agreement with Northern Consultants, Inc., not to exceed \$28,880.00, as the Certified Grant Administrator related to the Water Related Infrastructure Old County Road project.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve an agreement with Northern Consultants, Inc., not to exceed \$28,880.00, as the Certified Grant Administrator related to the Water Related Infrastructure Old County Road project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- R. Discuss and consider approving contract with Stratford Sign Company for the Downtown Entrance Sign project at US2 & BR2 intersection.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve an agreement with Northern Consultants, Inc., not to exceed \$28,880.00, as the Certified Grant Administrator related to the Water Related Infrastructure Old County Road project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- S. Discuss and consider awarding the bid for 2,000 tons of Winter Street Sand to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$21,500.00.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to award the bid for 2,000 tons of Winter Street Sand to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$21,500.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- T. Discuss and consider awarding the bid for 1,000 yards of 22A Road Gravel to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$16,350.00.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to award the bid for 1,000 yards of 22A Road Gravel to Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$16,350.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- U. Discuss and consider the sale of non-buildable Industrial Park Property to Hope Animal Shelter and John and Emmy Tuzee for \$2,000 per acre.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to authorize the sale of non-buildable Industrial Park Property to Hope Animal Shelter and John and Emmy Tuzee for \$2,000 per acre. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- V. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #4, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$88,736.28 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to approve Change Order #4, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$88,736.28 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- W. Discuss and acknowledge the introduction of Ordinance Number 557, an Ordinance to rezone 226 N. Lake Street, Ironwood, Michigan, from R-1B to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial, and schedule a Public Hearing for the October 13, 2025 meeting at 5:25 P.M.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to acknowledge the introduction of Ordinance Number 557, an Ordinance to rezone 226 N. Lake Street, Ironwood, Michigan, from R-1B to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial, noting no public hearing is necessary due to a Public Hearing previously taking place on this matter.*

- X. Manager's Report.

*City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:*

### **Engineering Projects**

- *\$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA: Underground work on the electrical duck bank has been completed. Both primary digester covers have been rehabilitated. Secondary clarify number one is nearing completion of its rebuild. Septic receiving building has been completed. The project is about 35% complete. The project is updating many electrical and mechanical systems within the 40-year-old wastewater plant which treats water for Ironwood, Hurley, and Ironwood Township. Project is currently on schedule. Jeff Wasley has set his retirement date of 1/8/26. Jon Wilson will be coming out of the union this fall for final training and to assume the Plant Manager duties.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. We are working on spending the last of the contingency money by completing some well rehab work and asphalt paving of the driveway around the water plant. Asphalt paving work will be completed 10/1/25 and 1 of the 4 wells has been rehabilitated so far (out of the 6 total wells that we have). Binz Brothers is continuing well rehab work for the remaining 3 wells.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant continues. The floor is poured for the 250,000-gallon clear well. CD Smith is continuing with the garage walls this week and possibly some work in the filter room prepping for the final concrete inside. August Winters might start some piping in the filter room late this week and Snow Country is expected on-site next week for underground piping work. Phase 2 work will generally be complete by January 2026 and start up commissioning of the treatment process is expected to be complete by spring 2026.*
- *Phase 5A \$1.6MIL water system project. Completed August 2025.*
- *Phase 5B \$3.8MIL water and sewer project –consists of water and sewer work on Coolidge, Harding, Michigan, Ridge and Arch. Phase 5C \$1.8MIL water project for reconstructing portions of Coolidge, Harding and Lowell St from US2 to Harding.*
- *Jakes plans on having all of Coolidge, Harding and Michigan Ave done this summer/fall. Ridge and Arch will be in 2026. A small section of Ridge just east of Lowell street needed to be done this fall due to the deep sanitary sewer line and needing to get an old undersize main completed.*

*Week of 9/22:*

- *Michigan St (Lowell St to Douglas Blvd): Continue water and sewer services; the road will remain closed for the entire week.*
- *Lowell St: Road restoration from Arch St to Ridge St.*
- *Harding St: Concrete work begins, starting with curb and gutter installation at Hemlock.*
- *Coolidge St: Complete remaining concrete work from Greenbush St to Nightingale St.*
- *Midweek, fine grading will begin in preparation for pavement.*
- *E Michigan (Greenbush St to Douglas Blvd): Water and sewer mains will be installed.*
- *West Michigan: Road width will be widened with gravel.*
- *Xcel Energy and Q3 contracting are completing Arch and Ridge the remainder of this fall. They will also be moving the gas line around Old County Road for our WRI project.*
- *The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project with Jakes Excavating: There is roughly \$800K remaining in budget for this job. They are going to be working on this work much more starting later this week now that the pipe work on Phase 5 is coming to an end.*
- *The \$598,000 TMF grant work continues by Jakes Excavating. Roughly \$100K budget remaining on this job. Project currently on hold waiting for more unknowns to come up.*
- *2025 Small Urban Grant Project Update: \$375K grant will be split between these two projects:*
- *Project 1: Superior street paving first lift was completed Friday and second lift will go down soon: still waiting on schedule from Contractor. Curry St mill and overlay is complete.*
- *Project 2 – Chip seal work by Fahrner Asphalt is complete.*
- *Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Ruotsala Construction has installed the new wall penetration from the new building to the old building. Outside they are starting on the block and brick work this week. The construction project will continue through fall 2025 with completion in the spring of 2026.*
- *Newport Heights water future project: We missed the EGLE funding list by a couple of spots. We will likely get an offer from them if others turn down the offers they were provided due to relatively low grant to loan percentage. The USDA Rural Development application finally got the State Historic Preservation Office clearance back late last week. We are hoping to get final RD items resolved over the next month and be looking at seeing an offer in later October. Signs are that RD has grant money available, so we are anxious to finalize the process.*
- *Phase 6 preliminary engineering report is in the early phases with work just beginning in August 2025.*
- *Our 24 sanitary sewer flow meters are installed, and we are waiting for our vendor to analyze results.*
- *Mud Creek Builders has been hired by the Civic Center to do some drainage improvements and build a covered entry on the east door on the “front” of the Civic Center. Work is in progress and nearing completion.*
- *Longyear Park playground equipment has been completed. We are tentatively scheduling a ribbon cutting for Thursday afternoon this week.*
- *Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – B32 has been hired to create a performance specification and then the City will put out a bid package and get that out to bid this fall once approved by the MDNR.*
- *All 15 private property owners have now disconnected their roof drains as required by the City. The City is doing dye testing later this week to verify the disconnection.*
- *WRI grant application: we are working through the steps with the State of Michigan Community Development Block Grant for this \$900K project for waterline work on Old County Road east of Country Club Road. We have been authorized to hire a SHPO consultant, an Environmental consultant and now a certified grant administrator. Xcel Energy has agreed to move the gas line that is in the way*

*this fall. Coleman will design this fall and bid project this winter for construction in 2026. Some trees will need to be removed this fall.*

- *MDOT US2 projects:*
  - *A MDOT Contractor will be working for the next 2 months on repair the WI/MI border bridge on US-2 on the west end of Ironwood. This will also cause additional lane closures and lane shifts as they route traffic through the work area.*
- *Downtown entrance sign: Approve contract with Stratford Sign Company at this meeting and hope to have installed by 11/15/25.*

### **Manager's Update**

- *Thanks to DIDA and the participating businesses for the amazing mural festival! Its spurred other murals to begin popping up, like Danielle Virchak's mural across from the Bodega. What a great addition downtown.*
- *Fall Clean Up – 140 Residents took part in the clean-up on Sept 12 and 13. Thank you to Ironwood Public Safety and the Volunteers who helped both days.*
- *Absentee Voter Ballots for November 4, 2025, City Election will become available this week. Registered Voters who have previously requested to receive a ballot for all future Elections will be receiving their ballot in the mail by Saturday, Sept. 27. Those wishing to vote Absentee can contact the Clerk's office.*
- *Curry Park Campground will be closing for the season on Sunday, Oct. 12. It's been a great season and the electrical upgrade project proved to be a well needed and beneficial project. A comparison report will be shared at the October 13 meeting as part of my Manager's Report.*
- *The City's Comprehensive Deer Management Hunt is set to start on October 1. Details on the Hunt can be obtained on the City's website or by contacting the Clerk's Office.*
- *The City's Recodification of all City Codes Project is well underway. City Staff met with a Code Attorney last week and will be scheduling a Work Session once the updated draft Code is available for review, likely in December. This is about a 2-year project to bring all the City's existing Codes current.*
- *The 10-year Comprehensive Plan update is continuing through the process as our staff works with HKGI on reviewing all the different chapters. Public review process will be occurring this fall.*
- *The Iron Belle Trail local authority is selling raffle tickets right now for their latest fundraiser for maintenance of the Iron Belle Trail. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased here at the Memorial Building through the drawing date which is this Saturday 9/27/25.*

### **Y. Other Matters.**

*There were none.*

- Z.** Consider Closed Session under section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of the Ironwood Professional Police Association, Police Officers Labor Council Bargaining Unit Agreement, as permissible under MCL 15.268(1)(c).

**Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, to enter closed session at 6:43 P.M. to discuss strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of the Ironwood Professional Police Association, Police Officers Labor Council Bargaining Unit Agreement, as permissible under MCL 15.268(1)(c). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

AA. Return to Open Session.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 P.M.*

BB. Discuss and consider approving a Tentative Agreement between the City of Ironwood and Ironwood Professional Police Association, Police Officers Labor Council Bargaining Unit.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve a Tentative Agreement between the City of Ironwood and Ironwood Professional Police Association, Police Officers Labor Council Bargaining Unit. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

CC. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 P.M.*



Kim Corcoran, Mayor



Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk