

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on October 27, 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, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: None

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2025.

b. Closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2025, and October 13, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2025.

b. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025.

c. Ironwood Carnegie Library Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2025.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Semo, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to amend the Agenda to add New Business items U., Motion to direct the City Manager to engage an outside entity to perform a compensation study for non-union positions at the City, including a market survey of pay and benefits and to provide further recommendations to the City Commission, and V. Motion to rescind and revisit the wage raise of the City Clerk granted on October 13, 2025 and revisit it in conjunction with the results of the study and budget deliberations and to create new policies and procedures on how compensation reviews will be handled moving forward.

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 September 30, 2025, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for September 2025.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Check Register Report for September 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).
There were none.

I. Presentation: Presentation from Rebecca M. Rogan, Director of DOVE, on Domestic Violence Awareness.

Rebecca Rogan, Executive Director of DOVE, thanked Mayor Corcoran, Paul Anderson, and the Commissioners for the opportunity to present information on the Domestic Violence Escape (DOVE) Organization in Ironwood. She shared statistics for October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, noting 43 new individuals reached out to DOVE (32 adults, 11 children), 24 people stayed at their facility, and the average length of stay has increased to over 30 days due to higher costs of living and limited housing. DOVE received 311 crisis calls, primarily from Michigan, with 46 from Wisconsin and a few from other states. DOVE has taken calls from all contiguous 48 states since inception. Rebecca highlighted that DOVE raised \$50,000 in local donations and acknowledged the continued support of local businesses. While currently at capacity, DOVE encourages those in need to call and welcomes support via financial gifts, gift cards or items from their wish list at www.DOVE-inc.net. Please call DOVE at 906-932-4990 with any questions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. Discuss and consider authorizing the City to request proposals for the redevelopment of 205 W. Aurora Street.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to authorize the City to request proposals for the redevelopment of 205 W. Aurora Street.*

K. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #1, for Angelo Luppino, Inc., which is an increase of \$9,060.00 for the DPW Cold Storage Building.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Change Order #1, for Angelo Luppino, Inc., which is an increase of \$9,060.00 for the DPW Cold Storage Building. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Discuss and consider approving Payment #22, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$12,160.61 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 #22, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$12,160.61 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 #5, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$89,520.38 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 #5, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$89,520.38 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- N. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #4, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$66,752.75 for the Phase 5C Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to approve Change Order #4, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$66,752.75 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.*

- O. Discuss and consider approving Payment #6, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$91,326.11 for the Phase 5C Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Payment #6, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$91,326.11 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.*

- P. Discuss and consider approving Change Order 3, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$281.00 for the TMF Water Service Line Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to approve Change Order 3, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$281.00 for the TMF Water Service Line Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- Q. Discuss and consider approving the Rural Development Pay Package #5 in the amount of \$71,358.35 for the City of Ironwood – Phase 5B Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpi, to approve the Rural Development Pay Package #5 in the amount of \$71,358.35 for the City of Ironwood – Phase 5B Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- R. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-051, recognizing the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board as a non-profit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #025-051, recognizing the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board as a non-profit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- S. Discuss and consider approving a \$25,650.00 Ice Rental Contract between the Ice Crystals Figure Skating Club and the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for the 2025-2026 Season.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve a \$25,650.00 Ice Rental Contract between the Ice Crystals Figure Skating Club and the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for the 2025-2026 Season. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- T. Discuss and consider approving a \$42,000.00 Ice Rental Contract between the Polar Bear Hockey Club and the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for the 2025-2026 Season.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve a \$42,000.00 Ice Rental Contract between the Polar Bear Hockey Club and the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for the 2025-2026 Season. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- U. Motion to direct the City Manager to engage an outside entity to perform a compensation study for non-union positions at the City, including a market survey of pay and benefits and to provide further recommendations to the City Commission.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to direct the City Manager to engage an outside entity to perform a compensation study for non-union positions at the City, including a market survey of pay and benefits and to provide further recommendations to the City Commission. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- V. Motion to rescind and revisit the wage raise of the City Clerk granted on October 13, 2025, and revisit it in conjunction with the results of the study and budget deliberations and to create new policies and procedures on how compensation reviews will be handled moving forward.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to rescind and revisit the wage raise of the City Clerk granted on October 13, 2025, and revisit it in conjunction with the results of the study and budget deliberations and to create new policies and procedures on how compensation reviews will be handled moving forward. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- W. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Projects

- \$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA: Work continues in the oxidation ditch for creating the new anoxic zone. Work continues the backup generators electrical and plant wide electrical. Work started on Final Clarifier #2 rebuild. 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. 3 of the 4 wells have 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*
 - *CD Smith will be pouring the second larger pour to the new clear well this Wednesday. They then plan on pouring the final clear well wall pour in two weeks. Then they will proceed with shoring and forming for the roof slab on the clear well. They hope to have that poured out by Thanksgiving.*
 - *The electricians have been working mostly in the well houses up to this week. Their intention is to get into the new facility and start running conduits and lighting.*
 - *The mechanical contractors are working on set up work for the process piping inside of the pipe gallery. They need to get the trench drain installed into the garage and then get the garage slab prepared to be poured. Hopefully in the next two weeks.*
 - *The garage masonry installation is complete. It will be washed this week. And then control joint caulking at the garage will follow that.*
 - *Snow Country Contracting has the 16" caps in hand and will be looking to terminate the 16" lines leading to the old pump house in the very near future.*
 - *The carpentry on the roof of the garage will start after they have completed the concrete work at the new clear well.*
- *Phase 5A \$1.6MIL water system project. Completed August 2025.*
- *Phase 5B \$3.8MIL and Phase 5C \$1.8MIL water / sewer project:*
 - *Final asphalt paving and concrete work happening this week.*
 - *Punchlist work on this years' work to be performed in summer 2026. Then second lift of paving mid to late summer 2026.*
 - *In the summer of 2026, utility and road work will be performed on all of Ridge Street and the westerly portion of Arch Street between Hemlock and Lowell Street. All Phase 5 work has a funding deadline for Final Completion of September 1, 2026.*
 - *Xcel Energy and Q3 contracting are completing Arch and Ridge Streets the remainder of this fall.*
- *The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project with Jakes Excavating: Now that Jakes is done with pipe work on Phase 5, they are back to working on numerous remaining lead service line replacements. There is roughly \$700K remaining in budget for this job.*
- *The \$598,000 TMF grant work continues by Jakes Excavating. Roughly \$100K budget remains 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 and Curry St mill and overlay: both are complete with punch list work occurring.*
 - *Project 2 – Chip seal work by Fahrner Asphalt is complete and closed out. Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Ruotsala Construction is working on the block and brick work. They hope to be complete by December. Some minor restoration may remain next spring.*

- *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 is on hold with the government shutdown.*
- *Phase 6 preliminary engineering report is in the early phases with work just beginning in August 2025.*
- *Our 24 sanitary sewer flow meters are being taken out for the season over the next week, and we are currently analyzing results from our vendor for setup next year.*
- *Mud Creek Builders has completed the work at the Civic Center to do some drainage improvements and build a covered entry on the east door on the “front” of the Civic Center. They are going to paint the wood tomorrow and then they will be complete.*
- *Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – The bid specifications are complete, and we are trying to get them to MDNR for review and approval. Currently waiting on a technical computer glitch to be resolved so that we can submit them to the DNR.*
- *Roof drain disconnection: we are still waiting on confirmation that the last 2 roof drains have be repaired so that we can retest.*
- *Old County Road Waterline: we are working through the steps with the State of Michigan Community Development Block WRI Grant for this \$900K project for waterline work on Old County Road east of Country Club Road. We are submitting our SHPO application today. Once we receive that back then our Environmental consultant will perform their work. A certified grant administrator is hired by the State to administer the project. Coleman is completing the design this fall and we plan to bid the project this winter for construction in 2026. We are talking about doing a public info meeting this fall to make people aware of the project and trees that will need to come out.*
- *MDOT US2 projects:*
 - *A MDOT Contractor continues to work on repair the WI/MI border bridge on US-2 on the west end of Ironwood. This has been causing lane closures and lane shifts as they route traffic through the work area.*
 - *Downtown entrance sign: Stratford Sign Company is installing footings on Wednesday this week and will be back in a couple of weeks to install the sign and associated plantar base.*
- *DPW Cold Storage Building: Angelo Luppino construction is working on the building which measures 60'x100' with 18' tall walls and 12' wide lean to's on the two long sides with three garage doors and two man-doors. Siding is being installed and scheduled to be completed at the end of this week.*

Manager's Update

- *Absentee Voter Ballots for November 4, 2025, City Election are coming in. We have had 308 ballots returned out of 612 ballots that were sent out. Ballots can be received back through election day. As always, the City recommends to our residents to get out to vote in this election.*
- *We are still going to try to keep the Depot Park bathrooms open as long as possible until winter conditions set in.*

- *The City's Comprehensive Deer Management Hunt is well underway. We have had 14 does harvested to date.*
- *The City's Recodification of all City Codes Project is still in process. A Work Session will occur in December once the updated draft Code is available for review. This is about a 2-year project to bring all the City's existing Codes current.*
- *Sisu race date has been announced for January 10th, 2026. New race staff will be hosting meetings to coordinate the event.*
- *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 City of Ironwood recently executed a grant agreement for the MEDC Match on Main program for a \$25,000 grant to Superior Gales (dba Yoopers Uncorked, LLC) which is providing funding for furnishings, merchandise, supplies, and other eligible grant expenses. We are excited that this business is continuing to operate in our downtown area and wish them well in ongoing operations. The City of Ironwood was eligible for this grant funding as a pass-through agency, because of our Redevelopment Ready Community certification status.*

X. Other Matters.

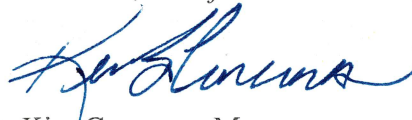
Mayor Corcoran wished Commissioners Semo and Andresen well as this is their last City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Semo asked to take a trip down Memory Lane and briefly reviewed the several projects he has been a part of over the past sixteen years on the Commission. Semo wished to share special acknowledgements to Mayor Corcoran, Scott Erickson, Paul Anderson and Tom Bergman for their leadership and wished the current commissioners best of luck in the Election next week.

Commissioner Andresen also spoke of the projects he is proud to have been a part of over the past 4 years on the Commission.

Y. Adjournment

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 P.M.



Kim Corcoran, Mayor



Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk

