

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on November 24, 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 Dean, Frank, Korpi, Mildren, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: None

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025.

b. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of August 21, and September 4, 2025.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, 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 approve the agenda as presented.*

E. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

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

F. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
There were none.

G. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. Discuss and consider approving Payment #23, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$272,330.71 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Frank, to approve Payment #23, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$272,330.71 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- I. Discuss and consider approving Payment #6, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$919,045.86 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Korpi, to approve Payment #6, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$919,045.86 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- J. Discuss and consider approving Payment #7, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$262,984.94 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 Dean, to approve Payment #7, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of \$262,984.94 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.*

- K. Discuss and consider approving the Rural Development Pay Package #6 in the amount of \$569,948.60 for the City of Ironwood – Phase 5B Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Rural Development Pay Package #6 in the amount of \$569,948.60 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

- L. Discuss and consider Resolution #025-052 to comply with the provisions of PA 152.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Dean, to adopt Resolution #025-052 to comply with the provisions of PA 152. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- M. Discuss and consider the approval of a \$47,000 subrecipient grant agreement with Invest UP for the Regional Strategic Site Readiness Grant.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Frank, to approve a \$47,000 sub-recipient grant agreement with Invest UP for the Regional Strategic Site Readiness Grant. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- N. Discuss and consider applying for the MDARD Rural Development Grant for \$100,000 to fund a portion of the Civic Center Ice Making Plant Replacement Project.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to authorize the City to apply for a the MDARD Rural Development Grant for \$100,000 to fund a portion of the Civic Center Ice Making Plant Replacement Project.*

- O. Discuss and consider approving a special event water rate for Gogebic Community College from November 21, 2025 – December 14, 2025, for the Sno-Cross National races held at Mt. Zion.

***Motion** was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to approve a special event water rate for Gogebic Community College from November 21, 2025 – December 14, 2025, for the Sno-Cross National races held at Mt. Zion. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

P. Mayor's Appointments.

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Gary Mariani to the Board of Review for a 3-year term, ending December 31, 2028.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Gary Mariani to the Board of Review for a 3-year term, ending December 31, 2028.*

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Donald Pellinen to the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board for a 3-year term, ending October 31, 2028.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Donald Pellinen to the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board for a 3-year term, ending October 31, 2028.*

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Mark Silver Grachek to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term, ending December 31, 2028.

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, and carried, to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Mark Silver Grachek to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term, ending December 31, 2028.*

Q. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

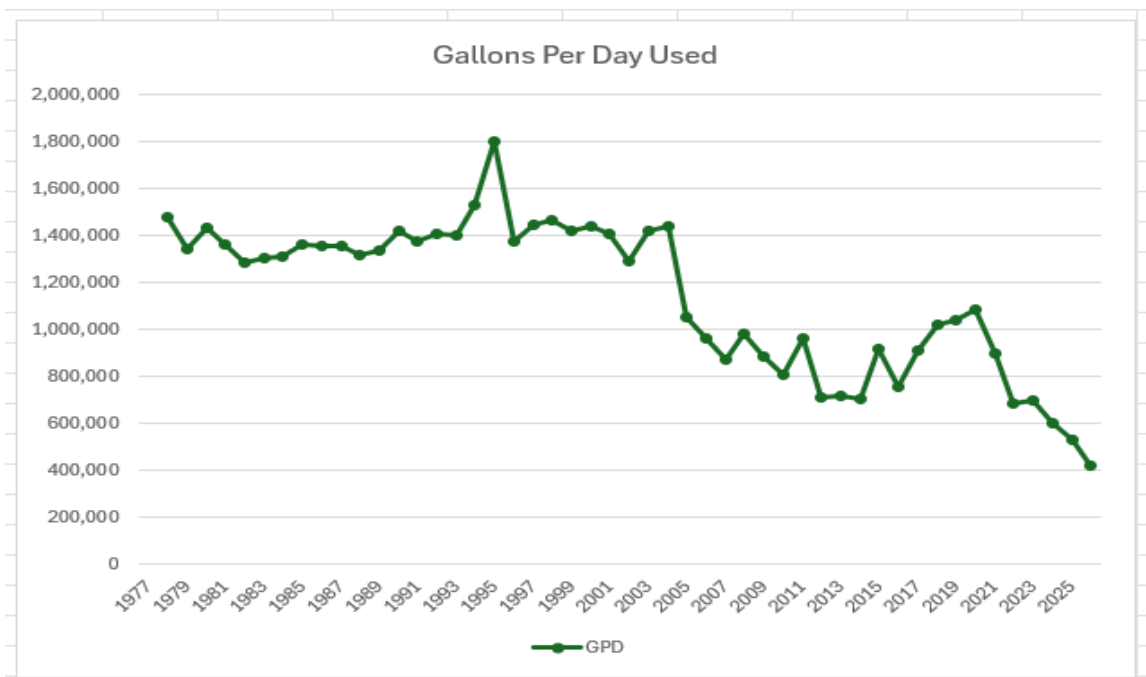
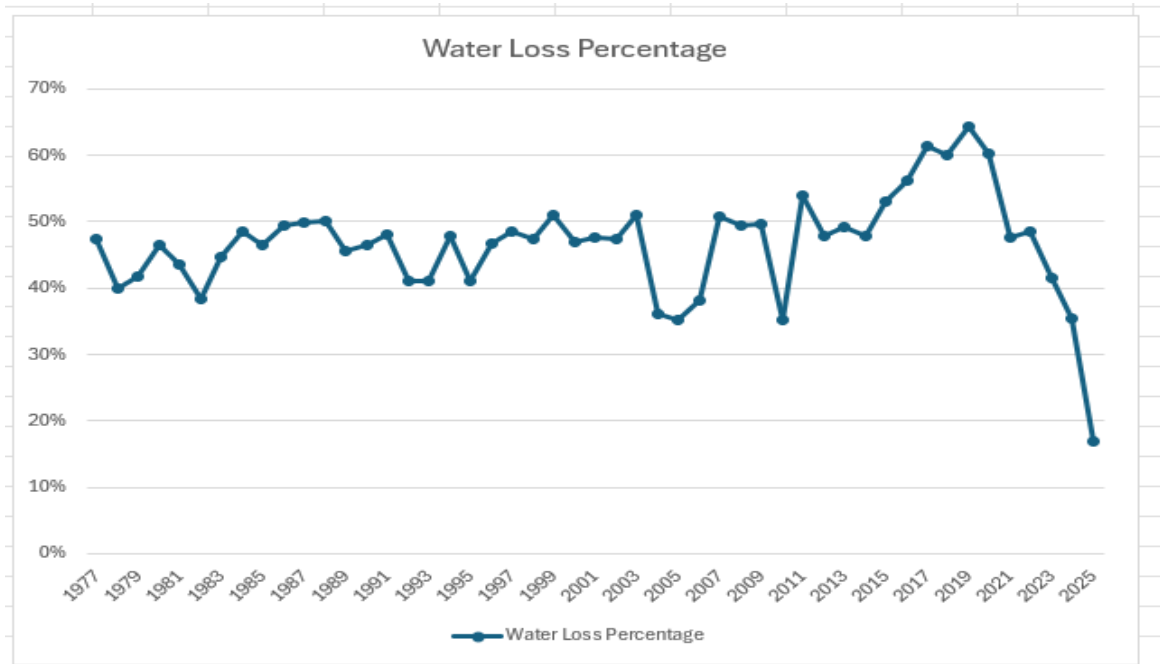
Engineering Projects

- **\$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA:**
 - Work continues in the oxidation ditch for creating the new anoxic zone. Setting roof panels
 - Working on final clarifier #2 through 12/31/25.
 - Working on layout and configuration for MCC's and SCADA system (electrical and computer control systems for the entire plant for each building). Setting MCCs in Buildings 10 and 35.
 - Demolished the north sludge press in building 50. New screw press and dryer to be installed this winter. The million dollar Chinese sludge dryer is coming this winter. This is the biggest hangup on the whole project.
 - Work continues on the backup generators electrical, and plant wide electrical startup is happening on 12/3/25.
- **\$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 and other minor miscellaneous work. This work is scheduled to be complete by 11/30/25.
- **\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant**
 - CD Smith is forming structural slab for the ceiling of the clearwell. Plan on pouring before Christmas.
 - Working on water testing the retention tank.
 - Mid to late December - start garage roof wood framing.
 - Snow Country Contracting terminated the 16" lines leading to the old pump house.
 - The electricians are working on the Mt Zion antenna tower wiring. Then they will be working in attics and running conduits of the new building.
 - The mechanical contractors are working on backwash pump system and air blower system and working on the 2" fill station change order work.
 - CD Smith will be pouring the garage slab in mid-December.

- *Phase 5A \$1.6MIL water system project. Completed August 2025.*
- *Phase 5B \$3.8MIL and Phase 5C \$1.8MIL water/sewer project*
 - *2025 work wrapped up for the season and on hold for the winter.*
 - *Punchlist work on this year's 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.*
- *The \$3MIL Lead Service Line Replacement project with Jakes Excavating: The work on the service line and water mainline on Beech Street should be wrapped up by tomorrow. After that, Jake will be shutting down work for the winter. There is roughly \$650K remaining in budget for this job.*
- *The \$598,000 TMF grant with Jakes Excavating is also on hold for the winter. Roughly \$100K budget remains on this job.*
- *Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Ruotsala Construction is working on the block and brick work. They will be using tenting to complete the remaining exterior work. They hope to be completed by December. Some minor restoration may remain next spring.*
- *Newport Heights water future project: Waiting on USDA Rural Development to finalize our application now that the government is back open. Also have an EGLE funding application in for the next fiscal year.*
- *Phase 6 preliminary engineering report is ongoing by Coleman Engineering with work that began in August 2025.*
- *Our 24 sanitary sewer flow meters have been taken out for the season, and we are currently analyzing results from our vendor for setup next year.*
- *Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – The bid specifications are in to MDNR for review and approval. We hope to bid the project in January 2026 for summer 2026 construction.*
- *Roof drain disconnection: we are still waiting on confirmation that the last 2 roof drains have been 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. The SHPO application is back from the State with No Historic Properties to be affected. We are now waiting on our Environmental consultant to perform their work to hopefully find No Significant Impact to the environment. A certified grant administrator is hired by the State to administer the project. Coleman has the design completed and we plan to bid the project this winter for construction in 2026. We are also bidding out a waterline on Rock Road (just south of Aurora Club) as a bid alternate in case contingency funds are available for this project.*
- *Downtown entrance sign at Gogebic Range Bank: Footings are in and Stratford Sign Company should be back in the first half of December to install the sign and associated planter base.*
- *DPW Cold Storage Building: Angelo Luppino construction completed construction two weeks ago. We are now working with Xcel and a local electrician to bring power to the building so that we can have lights in the building this winter. We will begin filling up the lean to's with our materials and equipment as time allows.*
- *Water Use and Water Loss: The following information was posted on the City's Facebook page: The following graphs show how the significant infrastructure projects of recent years have reduced the amount of water that the City of Ironwood uses AND how our water loss has been significantly reduced. Water loss is calculated by a ratio of the amount of water that you sell (measured in people's water meters) versus the amount of water that you produce. Historically about 40-50 percent of the water that was being produced was not being*

accounted for by corresponding sales. Now that number has been reduced to just under 20% which is under the industry average.

The volume of water being produced has also been decreased from well over 1 million gallons per day to just over 400,000 gallons per day in the last couple of months. These trends lead to cost savings in electric usage, chemical savings, wear and tear on pumps and other operational expenses. The City of Ironwood is proud of this progress made by water main and service line replacements and leak detection work. We look forward to continued progress in making our systems more efficient.



Manager's Updates

- Depot Park bathrooms, the compost site, Norrie Park, and the Cemetery are now all closed for season.

November 24, 2025

- *The City's Comprehensive Deer Management Hunt continues. We have had 17 does harvested to date. Hunting does is closed for rifle season and will resume on 12/1-31/25.*
- *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.*
- *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 over the next couple of months.*
- *Sisu race date has been announced for January 10th, 2026. New race staff will be hosting meetings to coordinate the event.*
- *City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week in observation of Thanksgiving.*
- *The National Weather Service is calling for a significant winter storm this week from Tuesday night into Thursday, with snow to be measured in the feet. DPW will be plowing snow during nighttime hours. Please drive safe, stay off the roads when able, follow the winter parking ban and have a Happy Thanksgiving.*

G. Other Matters.

Commissioner Frank thanked the City Crew for cleaning up the old railroad grade, thanked Gianni Badami for his help removing discarded water heaters from the caves area and requested that action be taken to secure 126 S. Curry Street, which is open to the elements.

Mayor Corcoran asked about Goal Setting, reminded the public of the upcoming Jack Frost Festival and Parade on Saturday, December 6, and thanked Bob Tervonen for his diligence in record keeping and help upgrade the water system over the years.

City Manager Paul Anderson mentioned that the City will be looking at applying for a \$50,000 grant for sewer smoke testing in the upcoming months.

H. Adjournment

Motion was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 P.M.



Kim Corcoran, Mayor



Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk

