

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on December 8, 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 24, 2025.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2025.

b. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2025.

c. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025.

d. Department of Public Works Updates.

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 Dean, 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 Korpi, seconded by Frank, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending October 31, 2025, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for October 2025.

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).

Robert Teske thanked the Commission and the City for the gutter and sidewalk work that was done in the Michigan Avenue area. He and Lisa are thankful for the hard work that was put into the project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. Discuss and consider proposal from Rahmberg, Stover & Associates, LLC to conduct a compensation review for City administrative staff for a not to exceed amount of \$12,000.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve and accept the proposal from Rahmberg, Stover & Associates, LLC to conduct a compensation review for City administrative staff for a not to exceed amount of \$12,000. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- I. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #22, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is a decrease of \$2,899.51 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Dean, to approve Change Order #22, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is a decrease of \$2,899.51 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- J. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #6, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$115,899.10 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Change Order #6, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$115,899.10 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- K. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #5, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$5,983.73 for the Phase 5C Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to approve Change Order #5, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$5,983.73 for the Phase 5C Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- L. Discuss and consider approving Payment #25, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$49,739.48 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Payment #25, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$49,739.48 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- M. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #11, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$21,079.56, for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Frank, to approve Change Order #11, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$21,079.56, for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- N. Discuss and consider approving Payment #12, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$678,470.69 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, to approve Payment #12, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$678,470.69 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

O. Discuss and consider the City Employee Gratuity for the Holiday Season.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Frank, to approve the City Employee Gratuity for the Holiday Season. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

P. Discuss and acknowledge Ordinance Number 558, an Ordinance to vacate an Alley between Francis Street to the North, Coolidge Street to the South, Nightengale Street to the West and Lowell Street to the East, Block 7 & 8 Grandview Addition and schedule a Public Hearing for 5:25 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2025.

Motion was made by Dean, seconded by Korpi, to approve Ordinance Number 558, an Ordinance to vacate an Alley between Francis Street to the North, Coolidge Street to the South, Nightengale Street to the West and Lowell Street to the East, Block 7 & 8 Grandview Addition and schedule a Public Hearing for 5:25 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2025. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Q. Mayor's Appointments.

Mayor Corcoran appointed Simon Batu to the Economic Development Corporation. Term ending October 31, 2026.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to appoint Simon Batu to the Economic Development Corporation with the term ending October 31, 2026.

R. 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. Roof panels are installed now with exception of caulking to happen in the spring. Aerators will be set soon and started up in coming weeks.*
 - *Working on final clarifier #2 finishing touches today. Start up tomorrow. Then it will be put into operation.*
 - *Chemical building painting is ongoing.*
 - *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 25 is complete. Footing pads in other buildings are in progress.*
 - *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.*
 - *Backup generators were installed and started last week. Switchgear for this is still in progress for allowing the whole plant to run off the new generator. Still hooked up to the old generator.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. We are working on spending the last of the contingency money. Trying to pull together contract work for converting our chlorine gas to liquid chlorine out at the Big Springs wellfield.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant*

- *CD Smith is forming structural slab for the ceiling of the clearwell. Plan on pouring the week of Christmas.*
- *Working on water testing the retention tank. Found some leaks and patching those up.*
- *Late December - garage roof wood framing starts.*
- *Electricians are working in attics and running conduits of the new building.*
- *This week automated system onsite to transfer communications to the new antenna system.*
- *The mechanical contractors are working on pipe gallery piping system. The 2" fill station change order work is almost 100% done.*
- *CD Smith will be pouring the garage slab in the first week of January. Currently preparing rebar for that slab. Trusses on top of garage to be installed in mid-January.*
- *Snow Country to perform site piping on north side of building any day now. After that is done then they will dig the infiltration basin over the next three weeks.*
- *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: On hold 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. On hold for the winter.*
- *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 January. 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. We are sending out tribal review letters to 15 different tribes in the region. Coleman has the design completed and we plan to bid for 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 plans to install the sign and associated planter base the week of 12/15/25.*

- *DPW Cold Storage Building: Angelo Luppino construction completed construction in November. Xcel is going to run power to the building the week of 12/15/25. Our electrician is currently installing all of the lights and outlets so we can hook that up once the power is ran.*

Manager's Report

- *The City's Comprehensive Deer Management Hunt continues. We have had 17 doe's harvested to date. Hunting does back open through 12/31/25.*
- *The City's Recodification of all City Codes Project is still in process. A Work Session will occur in December or January once the updated draft Code is available for review. This is about a 2-year project to bring all of 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 are hosting meetings to coordinate the event. If people wish to help volunteer, please let me know.*
- *DPW is still working night shifts to pull snow from US-2 from the Thanksgiving snowstorm. They started last week by doing the downtown and major roads to the highway and around the school. Last night they did the first night of 3 nights that it will take to do the highway.*
- *We have cleared off an area for an ice-skating rink at the Depot Park. Now that frost is in the ground, we are going to look at beginning the process to freeze down a rink. We will be looking for volunteers to work with the Ironwood Lumberjacks to maintain the ice for this trial season. The City plans to assist with the snowblower or plows to push off the larger snowfall from the rink.*
- *The Mt Zion Snocross races are this coming weekend. Head out to GCC to check out the world class snocross event. The City of Ironwood is appreciative for this event to come to our community with all its spectators and racers. From what I have heard, they ended up not needing to purchase any water from the City, since mother nature provided such a large snowstorm and they were able to keep up with the pond water for making snow. We wish them all of the best.*

S. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren commented that the Civic Center is a wonderful place for folks to warm up during the upcoming Snocross. Last week's First Friday and Jack Frost Event was a wonderful event, and how it was great to see the Lumberjacks participate. He thanked everyone who helped with putting on the event.

Commissioner Dean requested to be excused from the December 22, 2025, meeting.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to excuse Commissioner Dean from the December 22, 2025, meeting.

T. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Frank, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 P.M.

Kim Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk