

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on January 12, 2026, at 5:30 P.M., preceded by a Public Hearing at 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 5:25 P.M.
2. Recording of the Roll.
PRESENT: Commissioners Dean, Frank, Korpi, Mildren, and Mayor Corcoran
ABSENT: None
3. Public Hearing: To receive public comment on a blight violation at 209 W. Ridge Street (#52-22-151-110). Assistant Public Safety Director Matt Sterbenz shared pictures of the property. Public comments were received from Jennifer Black, David Harkness, Gayle True, Susan Mannikko, and Jean Wiita, all of whom spoke in support of the City taking action to remove the blight at the property, citing health hazards, lack of utilities, and increased wild animal presence due to exposed household garbage.
4. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:42 P.M.

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- 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 December 22, 2025.
 - 2) Review and Place on File:
 - a. Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2025.
 - b. Civic Center Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2025.
 - c. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of November 20, 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. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
There were none.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- G. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #025-053-B, a Resolution Ordering Removal and Abatement of the Hazard and Nuisance of the at 209 W. Ridge Street (#52-22-151-110).

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, to adopt Resolution #025-053-B, a Resolution Ordering Removal and Abatement of the Hazard and Nuisance of the at 209 W. Ridge Street (#52-22-151-110). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- H. Discuss and consider authorizing the sale of City property adjacent to the Hope Animal Shelter by reducing the previously approved sale price of the City property being sold to Gogebic County from \$2,000 to \$1.00 for the parcel.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to authorize the sale of City property adjacent to the Hope Animal Shelter by reducing the previously approved sale price of the City property being sold to Gogebic County from \$2,000 to \$1.00 for the parcel.*

Yes (4): Commissioners Mildren, Dean, Korpi, and Mayor Corcoran.

No (1): Commissioner Frank

***Motion** carried on a 4 to 1 roll call vote.*

- I. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #12, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$14,111.83 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Dean, to approve Change Order #12, for C.D. Smith, which is an increase of \$14,111.83 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- J. Discuss and consider approving Payment #13, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$448,401.90 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Frank, seconded by Korpi, to approve Payment #13, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$448,401.90 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- K. Discuss and consider authorizing City Staff to go out for bids for the following projects:
- a. 2026 Crack Sealing
 - b. 2026 Pavement Markings
 - c. 2026 Cemetery Grass Cutting
 - d. 2026 Parks Mowing
 - e. Civic Center Ice Rink Refrigeration System Project
 - f. Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI) Project for Water Line Replacement on Old County Road and Rock Road

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to authorize City Staff to seek bids on items a-f, as listed above.*

L. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-001, a Resolution to adopt a Flag Flying Policy.

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, to adopt Resolution #026-001, a Resolution to adopt a Flag Flying Policy, which does not permit any flags other than the United States, Michigan, Ironwood, and the Branches of Military to be flown on official City flag poles.*

Yes (4): Commissioners Mildren, Dean, Frank, and Mayor Corcoran.

No (1): Commissioner Korpi

***Motion** carried on a 4 to 1 roll call vote.*

M. Discuss and consider the sale of non-buildable City property to the Norrie Club for \$1,500.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to authorize the sale the sale of non-buildable City property to the Norrie Club for \$1,500. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. Discuss and consider approving an agreement with Coleman Engineering Company, not to exceed \$31,500, for Professional Engineering Services related to the Bonnie Location Industrial Site Evaluation.

***Motion** was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to approve an agreement with Coleman Engineering Company, not to exceed \$31,500, for Professional Engineering Services related to the Bonnie Location Industrial Site Evaluation. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

O. Discuss and consider approving an agreement with Colligo for \$5,000 related to GIS Mapping Services at the City's Riverside Cemetery.

***Motion** was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to approve an agreement with Colligo for \$5,000 related to GIS Mapping Services at the City's Riverside Cemetery. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

P. Mayor's Appointments.

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Scott Bissell and Klaus Kutschke to fill two 3-year terms on the Planning Commission with their Terms ending December 31, 2028.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to approve the Mayor's reappointments Scott Bissell and Klaus Kutschke to fill two 3-year terms on the Planning Commission with their Terms ending December 31, 2028.*

Mayor Corcoran appointed Susan Trull to fill a 5-year term on the Ironwood Carnegie Library Board with her Term ending December 31, 2030.

***Motion** was made by Frank, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to appoint Susan Trull to fill a 5-year term on the Ironwood Carnegie Library Board with her Term ending December 31, 2030.*

Q. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Projects

- \$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA:

- a. *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 are set and started up is TBD.*
- b. *Building 25 and 35 clarifier setting pumps and prepping for startup. Also installing fiberoptic and MCC prep. MCC swap over in building 25.*
- c. *Painting building #70 is ongoing.*
- d. *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.*
- e. *Backup generator was installed and started up. However, the switchgear for this generator is still in progress for allowing the whole plant to run off the new generator. Still hooked up to the old generator.*
- f. *Meeting with CD Smith and all subs tomorrow to discuss fast tracking of remaining work to meet the project deadline of June 2026.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. We are working on spending the last of the contingency money. We are still gathering cost and design information for converting our chlorine gas to liquid chlorine out at the Big Springs well field.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant*
 - a. *CD Smith is forming structural slab for the ceiling of the clearwell. Poured half on 12/29 and second half is being poured tomorrow.*
 - b. *August winters working on process piping in detention tank then moving to air lines in filter bays.*
 - c. *Pieper's is working on electrical throughout building.*
 - d. *Painters are onsite for miscellaneous painting.*
 - e. *Garage trusses to begin this week.*
 - f. *Garage heaters and air handlers will be going in next week.*
 - g. *Garage overhead door being installed tomorrow. Then man doors into the plant will be installed next.*
 - h. *Automatic systems onsite getting radio system installed.*
- *Phase 5A \$1.6MIL water system project. Completed August 2025.*
- *Phase 5B \$3.8MIL and Phase 5C \$1.8MIL water/sewer project*
 - a. *2025 work wrapped up for the season and on hold for the winter.*
 - b. *Punchlist work on this year's work to be performed in summer 2026. Then second lift of paving mid to late summer 2026.*
 - c. *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 \$600K remaining in budget for this job. Once the asphalt plant opens again in May, Jakes plans on installing lead service line repairs in the downtown of Ironwood. This will have a temporary impact on traffic flow around the businesses.*
- *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 has completed the block and brick work. They are now working on final punch list items including soffits and fascia, caulking, site cleanup and a few minor issues inside the building addition. Some minor restoration may remain in the 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 from Coleman Engineering is completed in draft form and in the City's court to review it.*
- *Our 24 sanitary sewer flow meters have been taken out for the season, and we are currently analyzing results from our vendor to planning for next summer.*
- *Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – The bid specifications are in to MDNR for review and approval. They stated we should have comments the first week or two of 2026.*
- *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.*
 - a. *We have cleared state historic and tribal preservation reviews and are now waiting on the environmental report to be finalized.*
 - b. *Coleman is about to send the design package to the State for review to obtain permission to go out to bid.*
 - c. *We plan to bid the project in late January / early February for construction in summer 2026.*
 - d. *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: Stratford Sign Company plans to install the sign and associated plantar base on 1/14/26.*
- *DPW Cold Storage Building is complete now with the electrical work completed over the holidays. DPW will be working to fill up the building with our equipment as planned.*

General Information

- *The 2025 Comprehensive Deer Management Hunt resulted in 17 does being harvested, which is up from 13 does and one buck being harvested in 2024.*
- *The City's Recodification of all City Codes Project is still in process. A Work Session will occur in February 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 the plan has been sent out to all boards and commissions for review.*
- *Curry Park Campground Reservations opened for the 2026 Camping Season last Tuesday. 46 reservations have been made so far, which is up slightly from last year's reservation numbers in the first week.*
- *Annual Business License Renewals were sent to Ironwood Businesses last week. As a reminder, people conducting business within the City of Ironwood are required to obtain a \$30 Annual Business License. Business License applications can be found on the website or obtained by contacting the Clerk's Office.*
- *Start the New Year informed! Sign up for the City of Ironwood's free CodeRED by Crisis24 Alert Notification System. Receive Emergency and General Informational Alerts via phone (landline and cellphone), text, email, or the CodeRED app. Notifications include informational messages related to City services, like the Compost Site, biannual cleanups, refuse and recycling schedule changes, street closures, project updates, events, and city-wide emergencies.*

January 12, 2026

- *Sisu Ski Fest was held last weekend and was a complete success. Many thanks go out to the 200+ volunteers who put on this race. We had around 600 competitors and even more support crew and volunteers all in town for a wonderful day of racing. The weather and snow were perfect, and we were all thankful for that.*

R. Other Matters.

Commissioner Korpi commented on the Sisu Ski Event saying what an awesome event it was, thanking the Volunteers.


Commissioner Mildren wished to echo Commissioner Korpi's sentiments on the Sisu event and congratulated the Lumberjacks on a big win this weekend.

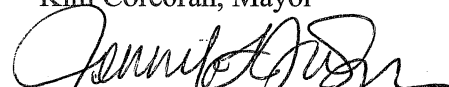
Commissioner Frank expressed concerns regarding enforcement of City ordinances related to garbage containers remaining at the street creating street maintenance issues and noted separate concerns about enforcement of cars parking along the No Parking event areas. A comment was also received regarding non-recyclable items being placed in recycling bins.

Mayor Corcoran thanked the many volunteers who helped with the Sisu Event and thanked the DPW for their snow plowing and removal efforts.

S. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 P.M.


Kim Corcoran, Mayor


Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk

