

## Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on February 23, 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 the proposed Phase 6 USDA Rural Development Project. Ashley Miller, Project Manager with Coleman Engineering, reviewed the funding application process, project scope, tentative timeline, and estimated costs of \$3.84 million for water and \$3.26 million for wastewater. Paul Anderson, City Manager, stated the City plans to apply early to maximize grant potential. No funding decisions will be made until sources are confirmed. No public comments were received.
4. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:32 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 February 9, 2026.
- b. Closed Session City Commission Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2026.

2) Review and Place on File:

- a. ~~Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2026.~~
- b. Ironwood Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2026.
- c. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2026.
- d. Resolution #026-003, 2026 Poverty Exemption Resolution.

*Motion was made by Frank, seconded by Korpi, to remove the Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2026, and place on the agenda for discussion and approve the remaining Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

D. Approval of the Agenda.

*Motion was made by Dean, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to amend the agenda by adding New Business, item N.1. Review and place on file the Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2026.*

E. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.
2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending January 31, 2026, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for January 2026.*

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Check Register Report for January 2026 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: Certificate of Appreciation to Bob Tervonen.  
*Mayor Corcoran publicly thanked Bob Tervonen, Utility Manager, for his 32 years of dedicated service to the City of Ironwood and the Residents. An appreciation plaque was read and was presented to Bob. The City Manager and City Commissioner's wished Bob an enjoyable retirement.*

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

J. Discuss and consider adopting #025-053-C, a Resolution authorizing clean-up costs associated with the abatement of 209 W. Ridge Street.

***Motion** was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to adopt Resolution #025-053-C, a Resolution authorizing clean-up costs associated with the abatement of 209 W. Ridge Street. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

K. Discuss and consider authorizing Staff to seek bids for the 2026 Water Tanks Cleaning and Inspection Project.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, authorize Staff to seek bids for the 2026 Water Tanks Cleaning and Inspection Project.*

L. Discuss and consider authorizing Great Escape Technologies, Inc., to install and update a new Door Locking System at the Memorial Building in the amount of \$28,533.55.

***Motion** was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to authorize Great Escape Technologies, Inc., to install and update a new Door Locking System at the Memorial Building in the amount of \$28,533.55. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

M. Discuss and consider authorizing the City Manager to sign the Grant Agreement for the 2026 Pre-Development Accelerator Pilot Program with the Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance Center.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to authorize the City Manager to sign the Grant Agreement for the 2026 Pre-Development Accelerator Pilot Program with the Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance Center.*

N. Discuss and consider authorizing the City Manager to sign the \$50,000 smoke testing agreement with Coleman Engineering for the 2026 Pre-Development Accelerator Pilot Program project.

*Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to authorize the City Manager to sign the \$50,000 smoke testing agreement with Coleman Engineering for the 2026 Pre-Development Accelerator Pilot Program project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N.1. Review and Place on file the Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2026.

*Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to place the Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2026, on file. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

O. Mayor's Appointment.

Mayor Corcoran appointed Monica Benson to fill an unexpired 6-year term on the Economic Development Corporation with the term ending October 31, 2026.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Monica Benson to fill an unexpired 6-year term on the Economic Development Corporation with the term ending October 31, 2026.*

P. Manager's Report.

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

### **Engineering Projects**

- *\$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA:*
  - *Work continues throughout this winter, for controls, painting, electrical and all associated work.*
  - *The million-dollar Chinese sludge dryer has arrived from China and is now onsite in Ironwood. The Contractor and Engineer will be inspecting it prior to assembly in the coming weeks.*
  - *On Thursday this week, the GIWA Board will be discussing time extension requests by the Engineer and Contractor to bring the project deadline from June 2026 to Nov 1, 2026.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. We are working on permit from EGLE to convert our chlorine gas to liquid chlorine injection out at the Big Springs well field. The parts are ordered and this needs to be completed by end of March 2026.*
- *\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant:*
  - *Fillet slabs poured in detention tank and clearwell*
  - *August Winters install piping and painting after*
    - i. *Get water testing done in clearwell*
  - *Water testing in detention tank*
  - *Electrical hook ups and conduit work ongoing in garage*
  - *Ongoing mezzanine for the automatic valves and all automation items (conduit)*
  - *Installing valves for filter influent then electrical*

- *Installing pipe gallery piping*
- *Back wash piping and airlocks from blower*
- *Roof system being installed on the garage*
- *Trouble shooting leaks in the roof valleys*
- *Working in old pump house, flowable fill poured, demo completed in trenches, once communication tower is installed get items demolished out of old pump house and finish capping slabs for trenches in pump house*
- *Automatic Systems on site this week for antenna switch over*
- *Snow County is hauling in back fill material in anticipation of road restrictions coming in March*
- *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 \$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 area of Ironwood. This will have a temporary impact on traffic flow around the businesses. We are pricing out the installation of two or three valves for the downtown water system while Jakes has detour setup. We plan to run this as a Change Order under this project.*
- *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 now have most all the punch list work done which just leaves them with some brick repairs and minor restoration in the spring.*
- *Newport Heights water future project: Waiting on USDA Rural Development to finalize our application. Also have an EGLE funding application in for the next fiscal year.*
- *Phase 6 preliminary engineering report from Coleman Engineering is completed and Coleman is addressing USDA comments.*
- *Our 24 sanitary sewer flow meters On hold for the winter.*
- *Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – The bid specifications are now out to bid with bids due on this Friday 2/27/26.*
- *Old County Road Waterline: 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 out to bid with bids due on 3/12/26, pre-bid this Thursday.*
- *Community Development is in the process of rehabbing up to 7 properties with the current MSHDA Round 1 Mi Neighborhood grant. 3 of the projects accepting bids/proposals with 1 accepting bids/proposals starting this week.*
- *The application for Round 3 of MSHDA Mi Neighborhood funding has been applied for. This application was for \$200,000 to rehabilitate 8 houses up to \$25,000 per property. The grant agreement is anticipated for April 2026.*
- *The gym and the auditorium floors are getting refinished today and tomorrow with a water-based urethane product. The gym lights were replaced last week with a LED system so our power usage will be down significantly with that change. We are going to have Efficiency United look into*

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*getting us an incentive rebate for this investment into lowering our power usage. With the gym being used 6 days a week almost all day, these investments will heighten the user experience.*

- *Status of project bids:*
  - *Road crack sealing (on hold until snow melts in early spring)*
  - *Road striping bid due on 2/27*
  - *Cemetery mowing bid due on 2/24*
  - *Parks mowing bid due on 2/24*

#### **General Information**

- *The City's Recodification of all City Codes Project is still in process. We held a Work Session earlier tonight regarding changes. This is about a 2-year project to bring all the City's existing Codes to be current.*
- *The 10-year Comprehensive Plan is out for public comments.*
- *Big Brothers/Big Sisters is holding a fundraiser at the Big Shots bowling alley on 2/28/26 at noon.*
- *All property owners wishing to contest their property assessments may appear before the Board of Review at the following times:*
  - *Tuesday, March 3rd, from 9am – 12pm*
  - *Thursday, March 5th, from 1pm – 4pm*
  - *Wednesday, March 4th, from 6pm -9pm*
  - *Friday, March 6th, from 9am – 12pm*
- *One more well wish to Bob Tervonen on a long and happy retirement. Thank you for your service these past 32 years.*

#### **Q. Other Matters.**

*Commissioner Mildren thanked the Public Works crew for keeping up on the snow removal efforts.*

*Commissioner Frank suggested having the DIDA group contact Maurices to see if they would be interested in moving their storefront downtown.*

*Mayor Corcoran extended her gratitude again and congratulations to Bob Tervonen for his years of service at the City.*

- R. Consider going into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h); to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to enter closed session at 6:21 P.M. pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h); to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

#### **S. Return to Open Session.**

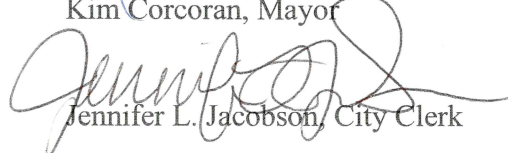
***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to return to open session at 6:29 P.M.*

#### **T. Adjournment.**

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 P.M.*



Kim Corcoran, Mayor



Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk