

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on April 13, 2026, 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 March 23, 2026.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025.

b. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2026.

c. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026.

d. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2026.

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 Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

E. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).

Bernie Smith addressed the Commission on the Norrie Park Community Garden.

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 approving Change Order #7, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$102,927.12 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 #7, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of \$102,927.12 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

H. Discuss and consider approving Payment #15, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$466,610.43 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 Dean, to approve Payment #15, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$466,610.43 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.*

- I. Discuss and consider approving Payment #16, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$503,270.44 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 #16, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$503,270.44 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.*

- J. Discuss and consider approving Payment #1, for Rink-Tec International Inc., in the amount of \$130,615.50 for the City of Ironwood – Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Ice Refrigeration System Project and authorize the City Manager to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to approve Payment #1, for Rink-Tec International Inc., in the amount of \$130,615.50 for the City of Ironwood – Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Ice Refrigeration System Project and authorize the City Manager to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- K. Discuss and consider approving a Grant Agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and the City of Ironwood for a \$527,923 Community Development Block Grant awarded to help fund the Old County Road Water Related Infrastructure Project and authorize the City Manager to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve a Grant Agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and the City of Ironwood for a \$527,923 Community Development Block Grant awarded to help fund the Old County Road Water Related Infrastructure Project and authorize the City Manager to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- L. Discuss and consider scheduling a Public Hearing to hear comments on a Housing Rehabilitation Grant Application through the Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for 5:25 P.M. on Monday, April 27, 2026.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to approve scheduling a Public Hearing to hear comments on a Housing Rehabilitation Grant Application through the Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for 5:25 P.M. on Monday, April 27, 2026.*

- M. Discuss and consider approval of the City's Zoning Audit.

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, and carried, to adopt the City's Zoning Audit.*

- N. Discuss and consider approval of a Use and Maintenance Agreement for the Norrie Park Community Garden.

***Motion** was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, and carried, to approve a Use and Maintenance Agreement for the Norrie Park Community Garden.*

- O. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Projects

- **\$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA:**
 - *Waiting on spring flow to subside before starting primary clarifier rehab.*
 - *Pump change over in building 35: startup the week of April 27th.*
 - *RAS pump in building 25 occurring.*
 - *The million-dollar Chinese sludge dryer has arrived from China and has passed inspections.*
 - *Many other items are progressing.*
- **\$11MIL Phase 1 of the water plant project is now complete and final closeout paperwork being done. Some warranty issues are still being addressed by the Contractor.**
- **\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant**
 - *Snow Country to be out April 13/14. Backfill clearwell at that time.*
 - *Security Cameras training going online this Wednesday.*
 - *Transferring water to West Clearwell to test first week of April.*
 - *Garage roof shingles have started.*
 - *Installing aluminum stairs on east side inside in the next few weeks.*
 - *Piping in gallery is being painted.*
 - *Chemical feed pumps are being installed in the next few weeks.*
 - *Electricians are working on runs to blower and low voltage to pipe gallery.*
 - *Old pumphouse infill of slabs is complete and demo of PLC and MCCs will be worked on once communications are all operating correctly.*
 - *Underdrain install is completed. Level indicators are being installed. Piezometer test for backwash pump.*
- **Phase 5B \$3.8MIL and Phase 5C \$1.8MIL water / sewer project**
 - *Revegetation work will be starting in the coming weeks once all of the snow is melted, and the ground dries out a little bit.*
 - *Punchlist work on last 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 \$400K 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.*
- **The \$598,000 TMF grant with Jakes Excavating is also on hold for the winter: *may start up once roads are melted off and weather is consistently above freezing.*** *Roughly \$100K budget remains on this job.*
- **Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Ruotsala Construction now has almost all of the punch list work done which just leaves them with some brick repairs and minor restoration this 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.**
- **GIS Updates:**
 - *Cemetery GIS site is drafted, and staff is working through things with Colligo staff to make the site more user friendly.*
 - *Streetlights: we recently created a GIS layer with all our streetlights to confirm that our billing with Xcel is up to date and accurate. Jeremy from DPW took a week to go around town and confirm each pole location.*

- Our 24 sanitary sewer flow meters **will be deployed soon.** We are actively working on mapping out our plan.
- Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – demo to start in the next month.
- Old County Road Waterline: Ruotsala work to start after road restrictions are off. Need to have a meeting with the State on paperwork needed before work can begin.
- FY 27 Small Urban MDOT Funding for Douglas Boulevard Sidewalks: Coleman Engineering is currently working on coordinating the environmental review process and is starting into design. Lighting will not be part of this project. That can be added in future project and bored under the sidewalks. The goal is to have this out to bid this late fall 2026 for construction in 2027.
- Community Development is in the process of rehabbing up to 7 properties with the current MSHDA Round 1 Mi Neighborhood grant. 4 of the projects have been bid out.
- 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.
- \$50,000 Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance Center grant for smoke testing: grant agreement has been signed, and project is **on hold until summer conditions arrive** at which time Coleman Engineering will perform the smoke testing of our sanitary sewer system.
- Industrial Park study: Coleman Engineering and a wetland consultant will be performing a study on the City's 70-acre property that is at the corner of Old County Road and South Davis Road. That work is under contract and **on hold until summer conditions arrive.** This work is being paid for by a \$47,500 Invest UP site readiness grant.
- Newport School property acquisition is complete. Next step will be to investigate funding.
- Projects that still need to be bid out this spring:
 - Road crack sealing (**on hold until snow melts off roads**)
 - Asphalt Patching
 - Asphalt parking area at Civic Center
 - Tub grinding of wood chips at Compost Site
 - Clean and inspect Mt Zion tank.

General Information

- The City's Recodification of all City Codes Project is still in process. We provided our comments to the consultant, and they are working on finalizing the document.
- The 10-year Comprehensive Plan is out for public comments.
- Update to the City's Employee Policy and Procedure Manual is in progress.
- City administrative staff wage study is still in progress. Wage surveys to other communities were due back on 3/20/26 but will likely require more time for the consultant to track them down as around half were still not returned.
- Spring City Cleanup / "dump day" will be May 1&2 at IPSD.
- Spring water main flushing will be May 11th - 15th.
- Opening of the Curry Park Campground will be May 20th. DPW will be working to get everything prepared prior to that date. The Clerk's office currently has about 144 reservations for this upcoming season. Chris and Kathy will be returning as our hosts this summer.
- Compost site opening is still 2-3 weeks out, as the ground there is still very soft and wet. Dan Nelmark will be our attendant again.
- IPSD is beginning their spring blight inspections and starting the notice process.

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- DPW is working on patching potholes and cleaning up plow damage sod repairs. Next week they will be cleaning off the sidewalks in the downtown and on the major roads. Street sweeping is now beginning.
- The local rivers are projected to peak over the next 48 hours. Today the water came up to the bottom of the Dupont Bridge, so we had to close it down, along with Norrie Park Road. We expect to be able to open this back up in a few days in the river does crest as projected.

P. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren reminded the public about the great live entertainment coming up at Theatre North and the Historic Ironwood Theatre.

Q. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Dean, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 P.M.



Kim Corcoran, Mayor



Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk

