Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on June 22, 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 hear comments relative to Ordinance #560, an Ordinance adopting and enacting a new code for the City of Ironwood; providing for the repeal of certain Ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; and providing for the manner of amending such code. City Clerk Jennifer Jacobson provided background, process, and information on the City's recodification process. There were no comments from the Public.

4. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:28 P.M.

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 June 8, 2026.

   2) Review and Place on File:
      a. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Special Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2026.
      b. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2026.
      c. Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes of March 11 and April 1, 2026.
      d. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2026.
      e. Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes of January 5, February 2, and April 6, 2026.
      f. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026.
      g. 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 Korpi, seconded by Mildren, 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 Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending May 31, 2026, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for May 2026.*

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion *was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Check Register Report for May 2026 as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

G. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
Bill Nantell, BK Properties, addressed the Commission on Agenda Item R.

H. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
Carol Erickson, HREC President, addressed the Commission regarding a request to place a Disability Pride Proclamation on the Agenda.

I. Presentation: Kathy Linville, Manager of Municipal Sales, Republic Services.

Ms. Kathy Linville provided information and statistics on the City's recycling services through Republic Services. She shared that the Eagle River Recycling plant processes approximately 100 tons of recycling daily, with 78% of materials being recyclable. Ms. Linville emphasized the importance of community education to increase recycling success. Over the past year, City residents contributed 127 tons of recyclable materials and 538.4 tons of waste. She offered to participate in future City events to promote recycling education and encourage increased recycling efforts.

J. Presentation/Introduction: Dr. Richard Schrubb, Interim President of Gogebic Community College.

Dr. Schrubb was introduced to the City Commission and expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome from the community. He shared his enthusiasm for working with local leaders on several initiatives at the Gogebic Community College campus. Proposed projects include expanding public recreational opportunities, such as opening Mt. Zion for year-round recreation, and collaborating with the City and Lake Superior YMCA on community-focused projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. Discuss and consider adopting Ordinance Number 560, an Ordinance adopting and enacting a new code for the City of Ironwood; providing for the repeal of certain Ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; and providing for the manner of amending such code.

Motion *was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, to adopt Ordinance Number 560, an Ordinance adopting and enacting a new code for the City of Ironwood; providing for the repeal of certain Ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; and providing for the manner of amending such code. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #1, for Ruotsala Construction, Inc., which is an increase of $ 85,440.00 for the Old County Road Water Main Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, to approve Change Order #1, for Ruotsala Construction, Inc., which is an increase of $85,440.00 for the Old County Road Water Main Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

M. Discuss and consider approving Payment #26, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of $94,344.61 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve Payment #26, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of $94,344.61 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #24 for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of $23,221.50 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Korpi, to approve Change Order #24 for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., which is an increase of $23,221.50 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

O. Discuss and consider approving Payment #8, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of $499,003.51 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 Payment #8, for Jake's Excavating and Landscaping, LLC., in the amount of $499,003.51 for the Phase 5B Water and Sewer Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

P. Discuss and consider approving the Rural Development Pay Package #9, in the amount of $228,067.31 for the City of Ironwood – Phase 5B Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion** was made by Dean, seconded by Korpi, to approve the Rural Development Pay Package #9, in the amount of $228,067.31 for the City of Ironwood – Phase 5B Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Q. Discuss and consider amending the 2026-2027 Fee Schedule regarding false fire alarms.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to amend the 2026-2027 Fee Schedule regarding false fire alarms.*

R. Discuss and consider allowing one estimate for the City's Downtown Façade Improvement Program, with the requirement that the applicant provide proof that they tried to obtain two bids.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to allow one estimate for the City's Downtown Façade Improvement Program, with the requirement that the applicant provide proof that they tried to obtain two bids.*

NEW BUSINESS

S. Discuss and consider approving an annual cost-of-living salary adjustment for non-union employees.

It was the consensus of the Commission to table action on cost-of-living adjustments for non-union employees until more information is available.

T. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-014, Amending the General Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #026-014, Amending the General Appropriation Act for Fiscal year 2025-2026. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

U. Manager's Appointment.

City Manager Paul Anderson re-appointed Kristine Perry to the Ironwood Housing Commission Board for a five-year term, ending June 30, 2031.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to approve the City Managers re-appointment of Kristine Perry to the Ironwood Housing Commission for a five-year term, ending June 30, 2031.*

V. Manager's Report.
City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Projects

- *$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA:*
  - *Working on screw pump #3 replacement*
  - *Working on installation of process equipment of primary clarifier*
  - *Valve installation at building 35.*
  - *Electrical conduits and prep work in oxidation ditches*
  - *MCC removal and installation in Building 50*
  - *Pouring new screw press equipment pad tomorrow.*
  - *The million-dollar dryer had some very minor damage incurred when accidentally hit by August Winters (mechanical contractor). August Winters is fixing this and working on letter from Manufacturer that states that the warranty is not affected.*
- *$22MIL water treatment plant:*
  - *Final electrical inspection happened today and passed.*
  - *Final plumbing inspection happening this week.*
  - *Then local building official can issue certificate of occupancy.*
  - *Exterior stairs are being worked on today and tomorrow.*
  - *Temporary door at back mezzanine is installed.*
  - *Wednesday double door being installed to top mezzanine.*
  - *Snow Country is performing site grading today in preparation for seeding and mulching.*
  - *Final tweaks to pumping systems punch list is being worked on this week as part of the commissioning process.*
  - *Demonstration period (2 weeks) should be starting next week. Assuming all goes well, then the plant and project will be turned over to the City in mid-July. There will likely still be a short list of punch list items to still be addressed.*
- *Phase 5B $3.8MIL and Phase 5C $1.8MIL water/sewer project*

- *Ridge St underground pipelines are complete. They are now rebuilding the road with gravel and breaker run rock. West Arch Street pipeline installation is underway: sewer main is almost done then they will start water main.*
- *Topsoil and hydroseeding are nearing completion. Watering is by the contractor.*
- *Punchlist work on last year's work is still in progress. This mainly consists of some curb and sidewalk replacement and a couple of settlement areas to be fixed. Then second lift of paving will be in July.*
- *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: There are still a couple of services to be completed downtown. Today they are working on Powerhouse Mall and Integrity Salon. There remains a line to replace at the Masonic Temple next to Co-op. That will likely require a temporary detour on that block of BR2. Notice will be sent to business owners ahead of time. There*
- *The $598,000 TMF grant with Jakes Excavating is complete for now. We still have funds left if we need to use the funds to identify materials in the coming months. We are using some of the funds to complete restoration of sidewalks.*
- *The 29 sanitary sewer flow meters have been deployed for the summer.*
- *Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – the demo of the old system is complete. New concrete slab being poured in coming weeks. City staff has submitted drawings for the parking lot improvements to MDNR for review and is awaiting approval to bid out.*
- *Old County Road and Rock Road Waterlines: Ruotsala work to start in July. PreCon meeting is tomorrow.*
- *FY 27 Small Urban MDOT Funding for Douglas Boulevard Sidewalks: Coleman Engineering is currently working on design of the project. The goal is to have this out to bid late fall 2026 for 2027 construction.*
- *Community Development is in the process of rehabbing up to 7 properties with the current MSHDA Round 1 Mi Neighborhood grant. Waiting on contractors to begin work.*
- *$50,000 Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance Center grant for smoke testing: Smoke Testing has been going on for 2 weeks already with approximately 3 more weeks to go.*
- *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 in progress already. This work is being paid for by a $47,500 Invest UP site readiness grant.*
- *Projects that still need to be bid out yet this year:*
  - *Asphalt parking area at Civic Center (out for DNR review)*
  - *Tub grinding wood chips at Compost Site (in progress)*
  - *Clean and inspect Mt Zion tank (in progress, due next week)*
  - *Newport School playground (in progress)*
  - *Memorial Building painting*

General Information

- *Update to the City's Employee Policy and Procedure Manual is in progress. We are finalizing final changes.*
- *City administrative staff wage study is still in progress. Draft/preliminary report was recently received and is under review.*
- *IPSD is working through the blight letter process. Hundreds of letters have been sent out. The summer help is mowing the lawn blight list this week. This will likely result in us having to use the Parks mowing contractor to mow some of the parks this week.*
- *With GOISD announcing the closure of their childcare facility for those under 3 years old, this represents a major hurdle for our community to get past. Approximately 35 children's families are*

currently figuring out alternate plans for later this summer. Tom Bergman has been doing his best to gather information and help communicate through this topic.

- *We were notified today that Social Security is currently advertising a permanent position for the Ironwood location. We hope that this will follow up right after the current 120-day temporary assignment is complete. This permanent position is very exciting for our community.*
- *With the USA's 250th birthday coming up this 4th of July, the City of Ironwood is going to start our small part of showing our patriotism by hanging US flags once again on the Memorial Building, like what we did for the 100-year anniversary of the building. We look forward to the beauty that this will add to this year's Independence Day. We hope you all have a happy and safe 4th of July.*

W. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren shared his excitement that the Memorial Building will be decorated for the USA 250th Celebration.

Commissioner Frank publicly thanked the DPW staff who assisted with the brush removal on Bonnie Hill and requested that the downtown trees be evaluated for potential trimming. He also commented on the length of grass at some blighted properties and expressed that the City should take a leadership role in helping identify solutions to local childcare challenges.

X. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 P.M.*

Kim Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk

CITY OF IRONWOOD MICHIGAN

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