**Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting**

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on August 10, 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 July 27, 2026.

2) Review and Place on File:
a. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2026.
b. Ironwood Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2026.
c. Human Relations & Equity Committee Meeting Minutes of June 3, and July 14, 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. Presentation by IPSD Director Matthew Sterbenz on flock cameras.
IPSD Director Matt Sterbenz shared information with the City Commission and public regarding the City's Flock camera in response to questions and comments raised at the previous City Commission meetings. Director Sterbenz explained that there are currently two Flock cameras in Ironwood, one owned by the City and one owned by Gogebic County. The City's camera is a license plate reader only and is directed toward the street. He confirmed that it is not a pan-tilt-zoom camera and does not have facial recognition capabilities. Director Sterbenz further confirmed that the City does not intend to add additional cameras or upgrade the existing camera to include PTZ or facial recognition capabilities. The camera data is restricted to be accessible only by Director Sterbenz and Sargeant Snyder.

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).
*Lydia Christensen addressed the Commission in opposition of Flock cameras.*

*Ryan Skoviera addressed the Commission in opposition of Flock cameras.*

*Brittany Martin addressed the Commission in opposition of Flock cameras.*

*Nathanial Bale addressed the Commission in opposition of Flock cameras.*

*Sean Day addressed the Commission in opposition of Flock cameras.*

*Jeff Emery addressed the Commission stating there is good and bad with Flock cameras.*

*Matt (last name unknown) addressed the Commission regarding misconduct related to Flock cameras.*

*Terry Kiefer addressed the Commission regarding the Flock camera being mounted on a non-safe break post.*

*Tim Bale addressed the Commission in opposition of Flock cameras.*

*Melissa Anderson addressed the Commission in opposition of Flock cameras.*

*Tim Foster addressed the Commission regarding Flock cameras.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

H. Discuss and consider awarding the Civic Center 2026 Parking Lot Improvements bid, in the amount of $43,883.00, to Ruotsala Construction.

***Motion*** *was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, ~~to approve the Consent Agenda as presented~~ to award the Civic Center 2026 Parking Lot Improvements bid, in the amount of $43,883.00, to Ruotsala Construction. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

I. Discuss and consider approving Payment #21, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of $17,647.74 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 Korpi, to approve Payment #21, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of $17,647.74 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**

J. Discuss and acknowledge the introduction of Ordinance Number 561, an Ordinance adopting a 30-year Franchise Agreement with Northern States Power D/B/A Xcel Energy, allowing the distribution of Electric Utilities within the City of Ironwood, and schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 4:52 P.M.

***Motion*** *was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to acknowledge the introduction of Ordinance Number 561, an Ordinance adopting a 30-year Franchise Agreement with Northern States Power D/B/A Xcel Energy, allowing the distribution of Electric Utilities within the City of Ironwood, and schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 4:52 P.M.*

K. Discuss and consider approving a Letter of Understanding between the City of Ironwood and the Ironwood Professional Police Association and authorizing the City Manager to sign all applicable documents.

***Motion*** *was made by Dean, seconded by Frank, and carried, to approve a Letter of Understanding between the City of Ironwood and the Ironwood Professional Police Association and authorizing the City Manager to sign all applicable documents.*

L. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-016-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday,

August 24, 2026, at 4:57 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 312 Albany Street, (52-22-304-030).

M. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-017-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:00 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 316 W. Norrie Street, (52-22-306-070).

N. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-018-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:03 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 205 N. Curry Street, (52-22-253-050).

O. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-019-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:06 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 220 W. Norrie Street, (52-22-304-080).

P. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-020-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:09 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 225 E. Harding Avenue, (52-22-132-220).

Q. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-021-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:12 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 172 E. Coolidge Avenue, (52-22-129-150).

R. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-022-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:15 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 221 E. Aurora Street, (52-22-334-180).

S. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-023-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:18 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 136 S. Mansfield Street, (52-22-260-180).

T. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-024-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:21 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 522 E. Houk Street, (52-23-351-210).

U. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-025-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:24 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 438 E. Tamarack Street, (52-27-229-060).

V. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-026-A, to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:27 P.M., to hear comment on a blight violation at 528 E. Tamarack Street, (52-26-105-060).

***Motion*** *was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to adopt Resolutions #026-016-A through #026-026-A, scheduling public hearings for the blight violations at the properties identified in agenda items L. through V., with the public hearings scheduled beginning at 4:57 P.M. on Monday, August 24, 2026, at the respective times specified. Motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

W. Manager’s Report.

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

***Engineering Projects***

- *Road Construction Updates:*
  - *Southwest Street has now been repaved and reopened.*
  - *Lowell Street has now been repaved and reopened.*
  - *Frenchtown Road and Old County Road by the golf course will remain closed through the end of August for watermain reconstruction.*
  - *Ridge and Arch Streets: Curb and sidewalk work continues by Jake's Excavating. Paving and restoration of these two streets will be completed by the end of this month.*
  - *Luppino is going to be paving our sewer and water patches starting this week. They also have paving work to do at the Little League fields, Sepplan Street, Lake and Ayer Intersection, and Lime Street.*
- *$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA:*
  - *CD Smith is working on a wide variety of mechanical and electrical upgrade projects that make up this large project. Currently stating that the project is on schedule.*
- *$22MIL water treatment plant:*
  - *Demonstration period (3 weeks) is now complete successfully. The engineers now must write a report to the State of Michigan and then the State will give us permission to start treating water. The fluoride pump needs to be replaced and so the fluoride will likely lag about a month behind the treated water.*
- *Phase 5B $3.8MIL and Phase 5C $1.8MIL water / sewer project*
  - *Ridge St and Arch Street - they are now pouring curbs and sidewalks and will be completing restoration work by the end of August 2026.*
- *The $3MIL Lead Service Line Replacement project with Jakes Excavating: Jake's is still working through the remainder of the list with approximately 20 remaining service lines to complete.*
- *The 29 sanitary sewer flow meters have been deployed for the summer. We had a major 2.5-inch rain event last Friday. We are reading the sewer flow meters today to collect that data.*
  - *We had a bit of great news from the wastewater treatment plant today, that the sewer flows at the plant spiked at a MUCH lower amount than the past similar sized events did over the past 20 years. I believe this is because of the work that we did with disconnecting the 12 downtown building roof drains. Time will tell if future rain events have similar results.*
  - *With this rain event, we also had major flooding of the storm sewer out on the highway (US2). I contacted the MDOT this morning with my extreme concern that this continues to happen approximately 2 times per year in major rain events. The City requested that these storm pipes were requested to be upsized in the reconstruction project 10 years ago, but MDOT declined to upsize the pipes. We will see what their response is and what further action can be made on this topic.*
- *Pat O Donnell Civic Center:*
  - *Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – the demo of the old system is complete, and the new concrete slab has been poured. Rinktec is having delays on their new BABA compliant chiller so they have installed a temporary chiller system to run until they can install the new system. No extra charge for us. August 21st Jay plans to start making ice to be ready for the Lumberjacks 1st practice on August 31st.*
  - *Nathan Westeen has repaired the east entrance concrete under warranty from last year's entrance project.*
  - *Parking lot job with Ruotsala construction will get started ASAP now that the contract has been awarded tonight.*

- *$100 raffle ticket fundraiser. There are still a few tickets left so please get your ticket before they are gone from a Civic Center board member or Jay Kivisto.*

- *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 4 weeks already with approximately 1 more weeks to go. Still ongoing.*
- *Industrial Park study: Coleman Engineering and a wetland consultant are performing a study on the City's 70-acre property that is at the corner of Old County Road and South Davis Road. This work is being paid for by a $47,500 Invest UP site readiness grant. Survey, drilling and wetland work is complete. Coleman is now performing the engineering study.*
- *The City Manager has hired Angelo Luppino Inc to perform repairs to the Norrie Park Boardwalk for the section of the boardwalk that was heaved and "wavy".*
- *We are waiting for the insurance company's approval so that we can begin construction on the repair to the Dog Park fence that was damaged by a vehicular accident.*
- *We have ordered the playground equipment for the Newport School site playground. Its expected to arrive in Mid to late September. Our DPW will be leveling the site and installing a fence prior to the equipment's arrival.*
- *Water tank cleaning: we are scheduling things with the tank cleaning company and proceeding with the work over the next couple of months likely.*
- *Projects that still need to be bid out yet this year:*
  a. *Tub grinding wood chips at Compost Site (in progress)*
  b. *Memorial Building paint repairs (out to bid right now, bids due 9/8/26)*

***General Information***

- *IPSD is working through the blight letter process. Hundreds of letters have been sent out. The summer help has now mowed three rounds of grass blight.*
- *The Wage Study and new policy with step system for administrative full-time positions is under final review by the City's HR attorney. We plan on bringing that forward to the City Commission for approval at hopefully the next City Commission meeting.*
- *HKGI is starting the zoning code update process with our Community Development office.*
- *8/4/26 Election Numbers:*
  - *Ironwood had 985 voters (22.69%) participate in last week's Michigan State Primary Election.*
  - *967 ballots were tabulated at the Polls on Election Day, inclusive of 451 absentee ballots. 18 Ironwood City voters participated during Michigan's mandated 9 days of Early Voting at Gogebic County from 7/25-8/2/2026.*
  - *As of this morning, the Gogebic County Board of Canvassers has not yet completed the countywide canvass. However, Ironwood's precincts were canvassed last week with no remarks or negative findings.*
  - *Thanks to the Clerks office and election workers for hosting another successful election. We are only weeks away from starting the process for the November 2026 election!*
- *With the announcement that both GOISD and Little Lights daycares will be closing this August, Tom Bergman has been having extensive meetings with State and local officials trying to find*

*solutions for expanding childcare services in the very near future. The shortest-term solution is that they are trying to open 40 more spots at the Bessemer daycare by getting some building improvement work permitted and completed.*

- *We have our DPW sewer assistant position filled with a person who has signed an employment agreement that is contingent upon passing an upcoming drug and alcohol screening. That process should be completed in a couple of weeks.*
- *Many thanks to all the volunteers and Friends of the Fair that put on last week's Gogebic County Fair. The rides were fantastic, food was delicious, and all the animal showing went successfully. Congratulations to all the youth that worked so hard all year long preparing for the fair. We look forward to next year's event!*

X. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren commented on the 2.5" of rain experienced on Friday and commended the work done in recent years to reduce the amount of flooding that takes place within the City.

City Manager Paul Anderson added that the new Sewer facility managed the heavy rain flow very well and as designed to do.

Commissioner Frank commented on blight, the Human Relations and Equity Committee, and encouraged people to help others who might be struggling.

Mayor Corcoran expressed her gratitude for the Fair Volunteers and workers and commented how nice Ridge and Arch Streets are looking with the projects wrapping up.

Y. Adjournment.

***Motion*** *was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 P.M.*

Kim Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk

CITY OF IRONWOOD MICHIGAN
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