IRONWOOD
MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*

TO BE HELD In the Memorial Building Women's Club Room and via Zoom Meeting
(Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://cityofironwood.zoom.us/j/86330383541*)*

Economic Development Corporation Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Recording of the Roll.
3. Approval of the Minutes of August 5, 2026.
4. Approval of the Agenda.
5. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding Items on the Agenda (Three-minute limit).
6. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding items not on the Agenda (Three-minute limit).
7. Items for Discussion and Consideration.
   A. Childcare.
   B. 2026 Goals (Status Updates).

#	Description	Status	Lead	Next Update
1	Communication – Promote what the EDC is and Does		Group & Ackerman-Behr	Aug '26
2	Promote workforce development and contractor availability		Raush & Benson	June '26
3	Hospitality program collaboration with Chamber and GCC Workforce Development			Oct '26
4	Collaborate with Ironwood Tourism Council in promotion of the area.		Corcoran, Tom & Tim	Aug '26
5	Vacation rental promotional materials and QR code initiative.		Virshek	Sep '26
6	Continue work toward regional Economic Development Organization.		Tom	Sep '26
7	Housing competitiveness and Housing TIF analysis.		Ackerman-Behr & Libby	May '26
8	Work with Chamber of Commerce on long-term planning.		Lehto & Batu	June '26

8. Update on other Committees and Boards

9. Other Business.
10. Next Meeting: October 7, 2026.
11. Adjournment.

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Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting
Wednesday, August 5, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. in the Women's Club Room.

1. Ackerman-Behr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Recording of the Roll.

	Present				
MEMBER	**YES**	**NO**	**EXCUSED**	**NOT EXCUSED**	**TERM EXPIRATION**
Benson, Monica	X				10/31/2026
Batu, Simon		X	X		10/31/2026
Vacant					10/31/2027
Corcoran, Kim	X				10/31/2027
Virshek, Danielle	X				10/31/2027
Ackerman-Behr, Glen	X				10/31/2027
Libby, Carolyn	X				10/31/2027
Lehto, Steve	X				10/31/2028
Raush, Ken	X				10/31/2029
Quorum	**7**	**1**	**Quorum**		

Also Present: Community Development Director Tom Bergman and Community Development Assistant Tim Erickson.

3. Approval of the June 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

   Motion by Corcoran to approve the minutes with the correction of a clerical error in 7A. Second by Raush. Motion Carried 7 to 0.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

   Motion by Corcoran to approve the agenda. Second by Raush. Motion Carried 7 to 0.

5. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding Items on the Agenda (Three-minute limit): None.

6. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding items not on the agenda (Three-minute limit): Lydia Christensen addressed the Corporation and talked about the Housing Action plan. Support for housing was asked. Virshek asked which group Lydia represents.

7. Items for Discussion and Consideration

    A. 2026 Goals: Corcoran asked if the members of the board could get a bullet point list to help with conversations. The business event at GCC was successful and highlights from the event were discussed. Bergman talked about the Cinnaire housing development which was forwarded to the appropriations committee for review. The Ayer Street property has had some interest from different housing developers. Lydia addressed the Corporation and talked about different housing types that could be allowed or offered. A formal proposal process for the Ayer Street property development was discussed. Adding a question to the workforce development survey to address housing development interest was discussed.

        1. Communication – promote what the EDC is and does. (Gogebic County Business Forum).

        2. Promote Workforce Development – Address contractor availability by promoting programming of UP Michigan Works, connecting with school programming, etc.: Raush talked about a survey that will be going out to construction companies and reached out verbally to local companies regarding the survey. The questions and audience are both ready. Ackerman-Behr asked Raush to send the survey questions to staff to disseminate to the board.

        3. Work with Chamber and GCC workforce Development – hospitality program (training in assets of the region).

        4. Collaborate with the Ironwood Tourism Council in promotion of the area.

        5. Work with vacation rentals to push assets through promotional materials (one page brochure and QR codes) promotional kit for Chamber members.

        6. Continue work toward regional Economic Development Organization.

        7. Housing – Quantification of the difference between taxing in the City and other areas. (How housing TIF might be able to make the City more competitive).

        8. Work with Chamber of Commerce on planning for the future: Lehto and Batu met with Michael at the Chamber to collaborate. Ackerman-Behr brought up alignment goals between the EDC and the Chamber. Attending Chamber meetings could be a goal. Bergman brought up the possibility of the new EDO exploring options of integration with the Chamber. Ackerman-Behr would like to provide more help to the chamber and to attend their meetings.

8. Update on other Committees and Boards: Bergman addressed the status of the Economic Development Organization. He discussed the childcare crisis. Childcare will be added to the following agendas. Various solutions were discussed. Lydia from the public commented on the

issue. The mural festival will be coming to the downtown this September. Details of the festival and muralists were discussed. The Jessieville playground will be installed this October.

9. Other Business: Lehto mentioned that date and times of the Chamber. The Planning Commission will be discussing the zoning ordinance revisions. Ackerman-Behr asked about public input and requested that the process be open for input. Ackerman-Behr would like for public input to be considered.

10. Next Meeting: September 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment.

Motion by Corcoran to adjourn at 10:56 a.m. Second by Raush. Motion Carried 7 to 0.

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Ackerman-Behr, President

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Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant