

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held via Zoom on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.

A. Mayor Pro Tem Corcoran called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Cayer to excuse Mayor Burchell from tonight's meeting. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

B. Recording of the Roll.

The following members who were in attendance indicated the physical location from which they were remotely participating in the meeting were as follows: Commissioner Cayer (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Corcoran (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), Commissioner Mildren (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan), and Commissioner Semo (City of Ironwood, Gogebic County, State of Michigan).

PRESENT: Commissioner Cayer, Corcoran, Mildren, and Semo.

ABSENT: Mayor Burchell (excused).

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda. *

*1) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Commission Meeting of April 12, 2021.

*2) Review and Place on File:

- a. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2020, June 3, 2020, July 1, 2020, August 5, 2020, October 7, 2020, and January 13, 2021.
- b. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2021.
- c. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2021.

***Motion** was made by Cayer, seconded by Semo to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

D. Approval of the Agenda

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve the amended agenda changing the word "quotation" to "invoice" under item L. and eliminating the words "and", "of", and change cat's to cat under item R. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

E. Review and Place on File:

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

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Cayer to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending March 31, 2021 and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for March 2021. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

***Motion** was made by Cayer, seconded by Semo to approve the Monthly Check Register Report for March 2021. 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)

John Rudberg, of 218 N. Lowell Street addressed the City Commission with his concerns of strong marihuana odors coming from some residences within the City. He explained that air filters/scrubbers should be used by marihuana growers to reduce or eliminate the odor.

Commissioner Cayer thanked Mr. Rudberg for his comments and noted he has had several residents complain to him.

I. PRESENTATION: Jason Alonen, Assessor/Code Enforcement Officer
(RE: 2021 Blight Process Update)

Assessor/Code Enforcement Officer Jason Alonen addressed the City Commission to update them on the 2021 Blight Process. Mr. Alonen noted over the past five (5) years 1,250 properties were sent letters for blight. Last year we were up 250 from the year before. In 2017 the City of Ironwood became proactive with the help of the Ironwood Public Safety Department. He mentioned the City of Ironwood Attorney Tim Dean was reviewing the ordinance to see if the timelines could be shortened. He further mentioned that over the past 10 years the City of Ironwood has removed over 160 blighted structures. Further discussion of this matter took place.

J. UPDATE: COVID-19 Response.

Public Safety Director Andrew DiGiorgio mentioned he continues to work with the Western UP Health Department. The health department continues to hold shot clinics at the Memorial Building, now for 16-year-olds and older. If someone needs a vaccination, he urged them to call the Western UP Health Department at (906) 667-0200 to schedule an appointment.

Finance Director Paul Linn mentioned he is waiting for the US Treasury to announce how much funding the City of Ironwood will receive from the American Rescue Plan, as well as guidance on how those funds can be spent. He noted that the announcement is expected late April or early May.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman stated he is still waiting on information regarding the restaurant revitalization program. He noted his department has already sent out the link to area businesses so they will be prepared when this grant is released.

OLD BUSINESS

K. Discuss and Consider scheduling a show cause hearing for a zoning violation by Tula Toilets & Septic, LLC, 500 W. Cloverland Dr., Ironwood, MI (52-16-483-080) for Monday, May 10, 2021 at 5:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to schedule a show cause hearing for a zoning violation by Tula Toilets & Septic, LLC, 500 W. Cloverland Dr., Ironwood, MI (52-16-483-080) for Monday, May 10, 2021 at 5:25 P.M. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

L. Discuss and consider approving ~~quotation~~ invoice from Fabick Cat for repairs to the 2005-430D Backhoe Loader #85 in the amount of \$12,365.61.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Cayer to approve the invoice from Fabick Cat for repairs to the 2005-430D Backhoe Loader #85 in the amount of \$12,365.61. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

M. Discuss and consider resuming charges for City water/sewer and refuse late payment fees, water turn on/off fees.

Motion was made by Cayer, seconded by Semo to resume charges for City water/sewer and refuse late payment fees, water turn on/off fees effective June 1, 2021. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

N. Discuss and consider approving engineering service agreement with Coleman Engineering for the USDA Rural Development Funding Application for the Phase V Water and Sewer Project.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo to approve engineering service agreement with Coleman Engineering for the USDA Rural Development Funding Application for the Phase V Water and Sewer Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

O. Discuss and consider awarding the bid for the installation of children's playground equipment north of US 2 (Lowell St./Midland).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to award the bid for the installation of children's playground equipment north of US2 (Lowell St./Midland) to Penchura for Option 3, in the amount of \$24,135. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- P. Discuss and Consider approving the sale of Ironwood Public Safety Department duty weapon (Officer Michael Rimkus) to the Ironwood Professional Police Association for \$1.00 to be presented to Officer Michael Rimkus upon his upcoming retirement.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to approve the sale of Ironwood Public Safety Department duty weapon (Officer Michael Rimkus) to the Ironwood Professional Police Association for \$1.00 to be presented to Officer Michael Rimkus upon his upcoming retirement. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- Q. Discuss "No Parking" traffic control order and street striping status on Norrie Street between Lowell Street and Hemlock Street.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to table this item and direct City Staff to contact area residents who are affected by no parking on both sides of the street and to making sure they have adequate parking in the back of their homes. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- R. Discuss ~~and~~ City of Ironwood ~~of~~ dog and ~~eat's- cat~~ ordinance.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to table this item and request City Staff to investigate what other communities do regarding the number of dogs and cats a person can house and bring it back to the City Commission for review. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- S. Discuss and Consider authorizing bids for an asphalt hot box.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to authorize bids for an asphalt hot box. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- T. Discuss and Consider approving the purchase of a downtown ornamental streetlight from Graybar in the amount of \$5,247.94, plus shipping.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Cayer to approve the purchase of a downtown ornamental streetlight from Graybar in the amount of \$5,247.94, plus shipping. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

U. Discuss and Consider authorizing payment for emergency repairs to the High lift Booster Pump #1 to Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling for \$17,047.24.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren to authorize payment for emergency repairs to the high lift booster pump #1 to Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling for \$17,047.24. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

V. Manager's Report.

City Manager Scott B. Erickson verbally gave the Manager's report noting the following items:

- *The US2/Hwy 51 roundabout construction will be starting May 3rd where one lane going each direction will be open.
- *Street load limits are currently still on by Gogebic County but anticipating them be taken off soon.
- *Curry Park Campground will be opening May 17th.
- *The footings for the City entrance signs on US2 Highway are being installed and the signs are being fabricated.
- *The City will be working with the contractor regarding the installation of the mine shaft safety fencing in the next 1 to 2 weeks.
- *Several of the events that will be held this year are the Memorial Day Celebration, Festival Ironwood, and a new one called the Ember Light Festival.
- *The final punch list for the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center is being compiled, with a walkthrough to take place tomorrow.
- *City wide clean-up/drop off event will be this Friday, April 30th from 8 AM to 2 PM and Saturday, May 1st from 8 AM to noon. This event will take place behind the Public Safety Building. Electronics, TV's, and appliances will not be accepted.
- *Hydrant flushing will begin this Sunday, May 2nd – May 12th.
- *The Water Treatment Plant design meetings will start next week.
- *The Iron Belle Trail is conducting a "Story Book Walk" with the help of the Gogebic County MSU 4-H, Great Start Collaborative, and the Carnegie Library.

W. Other Matters.

Commissioner Cayer questioned if City Staff were looking into continuing the zoom option when the City Commission goes back to in person meetings.

Commissioner Mildren noted there were 3,000 jobs unfilled in the newspaper. He also mentioned that many beautiful homes have been recently sold.

Mayor Pro Tem Corcoran urged everyone to stay safe and practice social distancing.

X. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Cayer to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 P.M.
Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Kim Corcoran, Mayor Pro Tem

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk