

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held in person and via Zoom for the public on Monday, May 9th, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.

A. Mayor Corcoran called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:30 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Andresen, Korpela, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: None.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda. *

*1) Approval of Minutes - Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2022.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2022.

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

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Mayor Corcoran requested to amend the Agenda, under Old Business, adding Item G1 to discuss and consider amending the previously adopted Retirement Succession Plan, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an executive search contract with the Michigan Municipal League (MML), adjusting the fixed price to \$17,000.00, and not to exceed \$19,000.00

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried to amend the Agenda, adding Item G1 to discuss and consider amending the previously adopted Retirement Succession Plan authorizing the Mayor to enter into an executive search contract with the Michigan Municipal League (MML), adjusting the fixed price to \$17,000.00, and not to exceed \$19,000.00.*

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

There were none.

F. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda (Three Minute Limit)

Randy Kashich of 342 Lake Avenue made statements directed towards the Cold Iron Brewery, as well as comments regarding City Staff. He complained about the lack of knowledge that City Attorney "O'Dea" has of the marijuana laws.

OLD BUSINESS

- G. Discuss and consider approving the Final Pay Application (#4) to Snow Country Contracting in the amount of \$14,964.07 for the Miners' Memorial Heritage Park Mountain Bike Trail Head Parking Lots and Connector Trail Project.

City Manager Scott Erickson noted this is part of the DNR Trust Fund Project and the final payment to Snow Country Contracting. He recommended approving final payment as described in Item G.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to approve the Final Pay Application (#4) to Snow Country Contracting in the amount of \$14,964.07 for the Miners' Memorial Heritage Park Mountain Bike Trail Head Parking Lots and Connector Trail Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- G1. Discuss and consider amending the previously adopted Retirement Succession Plan, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an executive search contract with the Michigan Municipal League (MML), adjusting the fixed price to \$17,000.00, not to exceed \$19,000.00, and schedule the first meeting with MML for May 24, 2022 at 5:05 p.m.

City Staff and Mayor Corcoran did meet with the MML Executive Search Team today. Discussion took place regarding this comprehensive process. Their rate went up to \$17,000 in the actual proposal. There will be up to 4 meetings with the City Commission to gather all the information for the search. Mayor Corcoran noted we need an initial date scheduled to get together with the recruiter. Mayor Corcoran explained she would like to move forward and confirm Commission is available to set up time to meet on May 24th at 5:05 p.m.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to amend the Agenda, adding Item G1 to discuss and consider amending the previously adopted Retirement Succession Plan authorizing the Mayor to enter into an executive search contract with the Michigan Municipal League (MML), adjusting the fixed price to \$17,000.00, not to exceed \$19,000.00, and schedule the first meeting with MML on May 24, 2022 at 5:05 p.m. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- H. Set Public Hearing for an "Amendment to Ordinance No. 523, Book 5; Chapter 37 Marihuana Establishments" for June 13th, 2022 at 5:20 p.m.

Community Development Director Tom Bergman gave a background to the Commissioners regarding the last several months of discussion between the Planning Commission and the City Commission related to the Marihuana Establishment Ordinance and highlighted the changes, which includes the addition of two (2) marihuana retail establishment licenses. Recommendation is to schedule a public hearing for the amendment of the Marihuana Establishment Ordinance for Monday, June 13, 2022. Drafts of the amendment will be available in the Clerk's office as well as on-line.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to set a public hearing for an "Amendment to Ordinance No. 523, Book 5; Chapter 37 Marihuana Establishments" for June 13th, 2022 at 5:20 p.m.*

- I. Discuss and consider awarding bid to Jake’s Excavating in the amount of \$946,995.05 for the 2022 Local Water & Sewer Reconstruction Project (Francis Street – Lowell Street to Greenbush Street), to be funded by a combination of water funds, sanitary sewer funds and general fund street funds.

Discussion took place that four (4) bids came in that were very close. Jake’s Excavating was the low bid, and City Manager Scott Erickson recommended awarding the bid to Jake’s Excavating. The original estimate for the Project was \$1.1 million. This bid was a little under.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela to award a bid to Jake’s Excavating in the amount of \$946,995.05 for the 2022 Local Water & Sewer Reconstruction Project (Francis Street – Lowell Street to Greenbush Street), to be funded by a combination of water funds, sanitary sewer funds and general fund street funds. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- J. Discuss and consider approving Equipment Storage Agreement with the Michigan’s Western Gateway Trail Authority (MWGTA).

The Equipment Storage Agreement was discussed, including reviewing the purchase of the mower by MWGTA. Recommendation by City Manager Scott Erickson was to consider letting the mower be stored in our public works facility. The City of Bessemer manages all of the finances for MWTTA. Recommendation is to consider approving agreement.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried approve the Equipment Storage Agreement with Michigan’s Western Gateway Trail Authority.*

- K. Discuss and consider approval of Engineering Services Agreement with Coleman Engineering not to exceed \$175,350.00 for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Small Urban Project for Hemlock Street between U.S. 2 and Sunnyside Avenue to be funded through the MDOT Small Urban Program in the 2023 MDOT fiscal year.

City Manager Scott Erickson presented information on the MDOT fiscal year. The City of Ironwood has been eligible for two years in a row. This is the second project for 2024 construction and includes a full re-build for North Hemlock. Recommendation made to approve the Services Agreement with Coleman Engineering.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, approving of Engineering Services Agreement with Coleman Engineering not to exceed \$175,350.00 for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Small Urban Project for Hemlock Street between U.S. 2 and Sunnyside Avenue to be funded through the MDOT Small Urban Program in the 2023 MDOT fiscal year. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- L. Mayor’s Appointments.

Mayor Corcoran confirmed the following Appointments:

Mayor Corcoran appointed Jerry Nezworski to the Parks & Recreation Committee to fill the vacant term of Mary Grace Loreti, for a 3-year term (term expiring July 1, 2022 with new term expiring July 1, 2025).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jerry Nezworski to the Parks & Recreation Committee to fill the vacant term of Mary Grace Loreti, for a 3-year term (term expiring July 1, 2022 with new term expiring July 1, 2025).*

Mayor Corcoran appointed Molly Gardner to the Downtown Development Authority to replace the vacant term of Jake Ring, for a 4-year term (term expiring June 30, 2023), and appointed Robert Alexander to the Downtown Development Authority to replace the vacant term of Darrin Kimbler, for a 4 year term (term expiring June 30, 2023);

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to approve the Mayor's appointment of Molly Gardner to the Downtown Development Authority to replace the vacant term of Jake Ring, for a 4-year term (term expiring June 30, 2023), and appointment of Robert Alexander to the Downtown Development Authority to replace the vacant term of Darrin Kimbler, for a 4-year term (term expiring June 30, 2023).*

M. Manager's Report.

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

- * The rescheduled Budget Work Session will take place Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- * The spring watermain flushing has started. The flushing will occur over this week. The city flushing "zone map" can be found on the City of Ironwood website to see what day flushing will occur in a specific neighborhood.
- * The Ironwood high school graduating class banners are being installed on the City light poles along the downtown business route. The banners will highlight this year's graduates.
- * The final permit for the Water Treatment Plant project has been obtained from EGLE. The project plans will be submitted to USDA Rural Development for final approval. Once approval is received from USDA Rural Development, which should be in the next two weeks, this project will be able to go out for contractor bidding.
- * IPSD will be filling two open public safety positions with the upcoming hiring of Kevin Stevens as well as sponsoring Colin Clausen at the academy this fall. These current and future hires will help fill open positions within the department.
- * The Curry Park campground on-line reservation system will be operational later this week. The campground is scheduled to open Saturday, May 21st.
- * Staff are currently interviewing applicants for the position of compost site attendant. We hope to have an individual hired soon and then schedule the opening of the compost site.
- * The Gogebic Iron Waste Water Board will be having a public hearing this Thursday at 8 am at the Ironwood Memorial Building to review and obtain public comment on a funding application with the State of Michigan for improvements at the wastewater plant. The funding application is being submitted to determine loan/grant eligibility for this work.

- * Kiwanis annual pancake day fundraiser is tomorrow (Tuesday 7am-7pm) at the Golden Dragon restaurant in Ironwood.
- * Flow Tracks will be starting the mountain bike trail construction in Miners Memorial Park next week.

N. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren noted Business US 2 and US 2 are looking better, and blight removal has taken place. US 2 also has Kwik Trip going up, noting the site is fenced in, keeping the sidewalk open and clean, and looks very professional as the project progresses.

Mayor Corcoran made note of the earlier public comment that was made. The City Attorney was referred to as “O’Dea”, and for the record, the correct name of the City Attorney is Tim Dean. Mayor Corcoran also discussed the work put into First Fridays – sweeping streets, cutting grass, removing snow. This makes everyone look good in our town, and the sweeping wasn’t just downtown. A lot of street-sweeping all over the City of Ironwood has taken place. Thanks to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for keeping First Friday looking good. Discussion took place regarding blight this time of year. Mayor Corcoran requested taking a look at the blight ordinance and repeat offenders, to review the process and tighten up on some of it. City Manager Scott Erickson noted it will be put on the next agenda.

O. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Wendy L. Hagstrom, City Clerk