

**Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
5:15 P.M.**

1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:15 P.M.
2. Tom Bergman, Community Development Director presented information on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Community Development Block Grant Public Gathering Spaces Initiative Grant Application. Tom further explained that this Grant will enhance the Douglas Boulevard corridor. The \$955,118.97 Grant request has a local match of \$106,124.33, which is included in the City's General Fund.

One comment from Randall Kashich, was heard regarding there being no information available at the meeting on this project for his review. Mr. Kashich was reminded, information is available at the Clerk's office prior to the meeting and the full agenda packet is available on the City's website for the public to view.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:22 P.M.
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**PUBLIC HEARING  
5:20 P.M.**

1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:22 P.M.
2. Jeff Sjoquist, Coleman Engineering, presented information on the Phase 5 Utility Project Plan, which includes water and sewer enhancements between Frederick and Albany Streets. Mr. Sjoquist reviewed the cost estimates and proposed project timelines assuming construction would begin as early as summer 2024 or pending funding, not until summer 2025. Mr. Sjoquist reminded the Public that this step is the Project Plan phase and is not committing the City to any loans or grants at this time. If the Resolutions are adopted today, the Sewer Project Plan information can be submitted now, and the Water Project Plan information will be submitted prior to June 1. Mr. Sjoquist committed to keeping the Public and the Commission updated as Coleman hears Project updates.

Mayor Corcoran asked for definition of an overburdened community. Mr. Sjoquist stated there are two qualifications to meet the designation of being an "overburdened community" for being under the program established "median household income" guidelines.

Randy Kashich asked if this project will make the water taste better and if storm sewers will be moved. Mr. Sjoquist informed Randy this is not a water treatment project and will not impact water taste and unless storm sewers need to be moved, they are not a part of the project.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:41 P.M.
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A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on April 24, 2023, 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 5:41 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

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

ABSENT: None

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2023.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting minutes of March 2, 2023.

***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.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried to approve the agenda as presented.*

E. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried to approve the Monthly Check Register Report.*

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

Amy Nosel, shared her gratitude for the collaboration within the City especially in regards to agenda item T, where the Commission is taking action on the Pride Month Declaration Resolution for the fifth consecutive year.

Randall Kashich, 342 Lake Avenue, Ironwood, MI, expressed concern that the Check Register Report was not available at the meeting for him to review.

Stosh Wasik, 722 Horizons Drive, Marquette, MI, representing Fire Station, passed on his appreciation for the Commission and reiterated that the Fire Station is ready to move forward with their retail license as permitted in the City's current Ordinance.

Tara Povich, W386 County Road N, Niagara, WI, representing RIZE, thanked the City Commission for their efforts, support and collaboration and spoke in favor of the City not allowing any additional Cannabis Retail Dispensaries above the two retail stores that are already in operation in Ironwood.

Logan Stauber, 2 Pinehurst Drive, Marquette, MI, representing Fire Station, shared that the Fire

Station hopes to be collaborating with the City of Ironwood and stated that the Fire Station intends to be integrated in the Community just as the two currently opened retail cannabis stores are in Ironwood.

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

Ben Thomas asked about purchasing a vacant lot that is not buildable property adjacent to him and presented the City Manager a letter requesting to purchase property.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

H. Discuss and consider awarding the bid to Pittsburg Tank and Tower in the amount of \$22,440.00 for the Jessieville Spheroid Elevated Water Tank Improvements Project.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to award the bid to Pittsburg Tank and Tower in the amount of \$22,440.00 for the Jessieville Spheroid Elevated Water Tank Improvements Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

I. Discuss and consider awarding the bid to Ruotsala Construction in the amount of \$58,500.00 for the Historic Ironwood Theatre Lowell Street Sidewalk Replacement Project.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, award the bid to Ruotsala Construction in the amount of \$58,500.00 for the Historic Ironwood Theatre Lowell Street Sidewalk Replacement Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

J. Discuss and consider approving a \$490 price revision for the freight charges to purchase a Sternberg decorative streetlight with cover from Graybar.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve a \$490 price revision for the freight charges to purchase a Sternberg decorative streetlight with cover from Graybar. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

K. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #023-007 to decertify a 270-foot portion of Mill Street from Penokee Road to Frenchtown Road from the City's Major Street System.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to adopt Resolution #023-007 to decertify a 270-foot portion of Mill Street from Penokee Road to Frenchtown Road from the City's Major Street System. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

L. Discuss and consider approving the Planning Commission recommendation to rezone 335-337 W. Northland Avenue from R-1 Residential to R-2 Multi-Family Residential and to formerly adopt the amended Zoning Map as part of the Zoning Ordinance process at the May 8, 2023, City Commission Meeting.

*Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, and carried to approve the Planning Commission recommendation and proceed forward with amending the Zoning Ordinance to rezone 335-337 W. Northland Avenue from R-1 Residential to R-2 Multi-Family Residential.*

M. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #023-010 for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Public Gathering Spaces Initiative Grant Application.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-010 for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Public Gathering Spaces Initiative Grant Application. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

N. Discuss and consider options for Marihuana Establishment Licensing Process.

*Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Semo, to proceed forward and issue the two additional retail licenses in the Marihuana Establishment Ordinance to the next two highest scoring applicants in the previous application process being the Fire Station and QPS Holdings.*

**ROLL CALL:**

*Yes (4): Commissioner Andresen, Korpela, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran.*

*No (1): Commissioner Mildren.*

*Motion carried on a 4 to 1 vote.*

O. Discuss and consider approving a Service Agreement with Michelle Rigoni-Sivula for Janitorial Services.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, to approve a Service Agreement with Michelle Rigoni-Sivula for Janitorial Services. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

P. Discuss and consider authorizing the payment of a 20hp submersible pump for Well #202, which was an emergency purchase from Binz Brothers, Inc., Well Drilling and Pump Service in the amount of \$25,000.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to authorize the payment of a 20hp submersible pump for Well #202, which was an emergency purchase from Binz Brothers, Inc., Well Drilling and Pump Service in the amount of \$25,000. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Q. Discuss and consider authorizing the DPW to purchase and install a 10hp inline booster pump from Binz Brothers, Inc., Well Drilling and Pump Service in the amount of \$14,000.

*Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to authorize the DPW to purchase and install a 10hp inline booster pump from Binz Brothers, Inc., Well Drilling and Pump Service in the amount of \$14,000. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

R. Discuss and consider adoption of the Mayor's Proclamation recognizing April 28, 2023, as Workers Memorial Day in the City of Ironwood.

*Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried to approve the Mayor's Proclamation recognizing April 28, 2023, as Workers Memorial Day in the City of Ironwood.*

S. Discuss and place on file the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Authority's Finding of No Significant Impact Report from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to place on file the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Authority's Finding of No Significant Impact Report from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

- T. Discuss and consider approving Resolution #023-004 declaring June 2023 as Pride Diversity & Inclusivity Celebration Month in the City of Ironwood and authorize the Pride flag to be flown at the City Square during the month of June.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-004 declaring June 2023 as Pride Diversity & Inclusivity Celebration Month in the City of Ironwood and authorize the Pride flag to be flown at the City Square during the month of June. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- U. Discuss and consider Resolution #023-008 for adopting the Phase V Wastewater Project Plan (CWSRF) and appointing the City Manager as the authorized representative for the project.

**Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-008 for adopting the Phase V Wastewater Project Plan (CWSRF) and appointing the City Manager as the authorized representative for the project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- V. Discuss and consider Resolution #023-009 for adopting the Phase V Water Project Plan (DWSRF) and appointing the City Manager as the authorized representative for the project.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #023-009 for adopting the Phase V Water Project Plan (DWSRF) and appointing the City Manager as the authorized representative for the project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- W. Discuss and consider Introduction of Ordinance Number 593, an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance Number 453, Book Number 4, and the "Code of Ordinances, City of Ironwood, Michigan," Chapter 2 Administration, Section 2-221, and Section 2-222, regarding purchases.

**Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to schedule a Public Hearing for the May 8, 2023 meeting to hear comment on Ordinance Number 593, an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance Number 453, Book Number 4, and the "Code of Ordinances, City of Ironwood, Michigan," Chapter 2 Administration, Section 2-221, and Section 2-222, regarding purchases.

- X. Discuss and consider amending the Sick/Vacation Time Donation Policy.

**Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to amend the Sick/Vacation Time Donation Policy to allow any City employee with over 80 hours of Sick Leave and 40 hours of Vacation to donate any amount of hours above those thresholds to a colleague with a determined need.

- Y. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

1. We will be pulling sandbags this week now that the river levels have receded, and majority of the snowmelt has occurred. Thankfully we had only had minor damage to our

*roadways due to the flooding. We are repairing those issues on Norrie Park Road and South Range Road. We are still monitoring the funding reimbursement through State and possible Federal disaster declarations.*

- 2. We were happy that we could assist Wakefield with the loan of 40 road barricades to deal with their flooding.*
- 3. The frost had a significant impact on some of our local roads. We will be working on getting a project out to bid for the repair of damage that occurred over the winter from frost.*
- 4. Spring water main flushing will be coming up soon. Dates have not been set yet but will be publicly announced once determined.*
- 5. Spring Cleanup Day will be Friday May 5 from 8-2 and Saturday May 6 from 8-11. City will be releasing more details soon regarding what will be acceptable for items.*
- 6. The water plant subsequent funding discussions continue with USDA Rural Development. Currently waiting on a project waiver for the Buy American requirements. Still have not heard about what grant and loan combination that we will be offered but remain optimistic that the project will still be able to proceed.*
- 7. Hemlock Street construction project from Broadway to US2 will be underway this summer starting once road limits come off. A neighborhood meeting will be held in early May. More details to come once set up.*
- 8. Downtown sewer main lining work will be happening this summer as well. A meeting will be held this Wednesday April 26th with the effected businesses.*
- 9. Our budgeting process continues this week. Paul Linn is working on finalizing the draft budget this week and then we plan to have a budget workshop on 5/3/23 at 3:30 PM.*
- 10. Public Safety and Code enforcement have been working together on blight issues over the past few weeks. Roughly 100 blight letters are in the process of being sent out.*
- 11. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center has been super busy with little league, soft ball, golf, pickle ball and other sporting activities while people wait for summer to arrive. Contact Jay Kivisto with any questions.*
- 12. Penokee Range Little League will be hosting the 9–10-year-old All Stars Tournament this summer from July 15-20th. This will host 8 or more teams to play through different fields in our region. We are working to connect those teams with our Tourism Council for recommendations on lodging, food, and activities.*
- 13. MSU Extension is hosting Family Fun Night tomorrow night from 5-7 PM at the Memorial Building. There will be activities, crafts, snacks, games and prizes for the children, so please come out and join the good time.*

Z. Other Matters.

AA. Adjournment.

**Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Andresen, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 P.M.

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk