

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on July 10, 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 5:30 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 June 26, 2023.

b. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2023.

Motion was made by Semo, 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 Korpela, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Nancy Sturgul, 225 W. Midland Avenue, wanted to thank all the neighbors for attending the meeting and showing support for proposed Ordinance Number 541, to hopefully amend the Snow Dumping Ordinance and not allow snow dumping to take place in their neighborhood. Mrs. Sturgul asked the following questions for Tom Bergman, Community Development Director to address when discussing agenda Item I. 1) In Mr. Bergman's memo, it states "person", does this include a Commercial Business, and 2) Will sections 17-72 through 17-75 of the current Ordinance remain in effect?

Ben O'Neill, 1313 N. Lawrence St, stated he and his wife are new residents to Ironwood, and are in support of the Snow Dumping Ordinance being amended to no longer allow snow dumping in a residential area. Mr. O'Neill expressed concern that the machinery was loud and disruptive this winter. He and his wife would prefer not to have commercial snow hauling within their residential neighborhood.

Ken Fahrner, 117 May Street, stated that Tom Bergman and Paul Anderson talked to him earlier this year about closing the snow dumps. Mr. Fahrner doesn't see where there are a lot of problems and said he's been a good steward of the program. Mr. Fahrner is asking the City Commissioners to stand with businesses in the City.

Kelli Stanczak, on behalf of son, Mike Stanczak who lives at 1100 N. Hemlock, spoke in favor of the Snow Dump Ordinance being amended stating there formerly was a home on the vacant lot Mr. Fahrner owns and said with the snow dumping her son has “lake front property” in the spring.

Greg Zalewsky, 1214 N. Lawrence St., expressed to the Commission that there are kids that live in that area and shouldn't have to listen to the constant loud truck boxes slamming shut all hours of the day and night.

Pete Sturgul, 225 W. Midland Avenue, stated this snow dumping has been going on for four years and Mr. Fahrner has never been in compliance with the existing Ordinance. Mr. Sturgul asked the Commission who is going to repair the roads as they are not built for commercial vehicle usage. Mr. Sturgul spoke in support of the Ordinance change.

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

Kelli Stanczak, on behalf of son, Mike Stanczak who lives at 1100 N. Hemlock, requested that the home next to Mike's house be condemned. Ms. Stanczak stated that the basement caved in four years ago and the grass has been cut only one time this summer.

OLD BUSINESS

G. Discuss and consider authorizing Payment #14 to Flowtrack Mountain Bike Trails, LLC in the amount of \$6,166.86 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners Memorial Heritage Park.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to authorize Payment #14 to Flowtrack Mountain Bike Trails, LLC in the amount of \$6,166.86 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners Memorial Heritage Park. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

H. Discuss and consider Change Order 1 to the Parks Mowing Contract for 4 Seasons Lawn and Property Services, Inc.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve Change Order 1 to the Parks Mowing Contract for 4 Seasons Lawn and Property Services, Inc. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Discuss and consider introduction of Ordinance Number 541, an Ordinance to amend Section 17-71 of Chapter 17, Article V. Snow Dumping, of the Code of Ordinances.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to acknowledge the introduction of Ordinance Number 541, an Ordinance to amend Section 17-71 of Chapter 17, Article V. Snow Dumping, of the Code of Ordinances and schedule a Public Hearing for the July 24, 2023 City Commission meeting to hear comments on Ordinance Number 541.

- J. Discuss and consider approving Loan Resolution #023-018 for incurring indebtedness with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for the Water Treatment Plant Project in the amount of \$361,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve Loan Resolution #023-018 for incurring indebtedness with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for the Water Treatment Plant Project in the amount of \$361,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- K. Discuss and consider approving Loan Resolution #023-019 for incurring indebtedness with USDA Rural Development for the Water Treatment Plant Project in the amount of \$5,439,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve Loan Resolution #023-019 for incurring indebtedness with USDA Rural Development for the Water Treatment Plant Project in the amount of \$5,439,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- L. Discuss and consider approving a Grant Agreement between the USDA Rural Development and the City of Ironwood for a \$5,772,000 grant awarded to help fund the Water Treatment Plant Project.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve a Grant Agreement between the USDA Rural Development and the City of Ironwood for a \$5,772,000 grant awarded to help fund the Water Treatment Plant Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- M. Discuss and consider a one-time \$5,000 stipend payment for the City Manager.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to approve a one-time \$5,000 stipend payment for the City Manager. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- N. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Updates

- 1. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the water plant project continues to move forward with CD Smith as the General Contractor. The sewer plant project will hopefully progress soon as we work through project cuts with the low bid contractor, CD Smith. These two projects together are almost \$40 MIL and it will be great to have one contractor in Town to execute them both efficiently.*
- 2. Hemlock Street construction project from Broadway to US2 continues with storm sewer installation this week. After the storm sewer, Ruotsala will be installing about 12 sewer and water service lines to individual houses in the upcoming weeks. After that, road reconstruction work will commence.*
- 3. Downtown sewer main lining work is wrapped up. We thank all the business owners and effected parties for their patience while this work was performed.*

4. *The Margaret Street culvert has been installed and restoration work is being scheduled for the coming weeks as paving schedules allow.*
5. *Angelo Luppino is continuing pavement patch projects for the City of Ironwood through the GCRC contract.*
6. *Crack sealing contractor, Scodeller Construction from downstate Michigan, will be in town soon to crack seal the Norrie and Jessieville neighborhoods.*
7. *Miners Park Mountain Bike Trail project by Flow Track is continuing and scheduled to be completed in late August. The trails are open for use by the public. Signage is one of the last items that will be completed at the end of the project.*
8. *Engineering work for the \$3MIL lead service line project continues. We hope to have this project out to bid later this summer for construction through 2024 and 2025.*
9. *We are beginning to work on pulling together the bidding documents for more electrical improvements at Curry Park.*

Managers Updates

1. *DPW has completed the first round of blight mowing. City staff will be sending out the invoices for this work this week. A lot of progress was made by residents on blight cleanup after the first round of notices were sent out. Code enforcement and Public Safety are following up on the process for the roughly 10% of blight notices that were not cleaned up.*
2. *The 100-year celebration of the Memorial Building was this past Friday July 7th at 5 PM. We had a great showing with wonderful speeches from Mayor Corcoran, Commission Mildren, Dave Manke along with wonderful music and a really cool picture and video taken by Jake Ring. Thanks to all of those who attended to make this celebration really special.*
3. *Festival Ironwood starts Wednesday this week. We look forward to all of the celebrations, games, music, run, car show, volleyball and cornhole tournaments and great food! We hope everyone is able to come out and enjoy some part of the fun 5 day event.*
4. *Also be sure to check out the Emberlight Festival schedule of events. They are hosting the Art in the Park event, along with many other local art exhibits, musical shows, plays, films and other performances right here in Ironwood during July and August. How lucky are we to have such talent right here in our own Town?!*
5. *I just want to say THANK YOU to the Public Safety staff for all their work keeping our community safe. A lot of what they deal with on a day to day basis is not discussed with the staff, commissioners, nor the public, but I hear snippets of the types of crimes that they deal with on a daily basis, and I am always amazed at what a great job that they do. Thank you to all of our Public Safety Officers here in Ironwood, as well as the County and State officers that also work in our area.*

O. Other Matters.

Mayor Corcoran thanked Jen Jacobson and Mara Maher for coordinating the 100-Year Celebration photo and thanked all the people who attended to take part. Between Commissioner Mildren and herself, 60 people took part in the guided tours of the Memorial Building on July 7. Mayor Corcoran commented on blight efforts and wished to remind everyone of Festival Ironwood, which starts Wednesday.

Commissioner Mildren shared his excitement about the 100 Year Celebration Photo thanking the various groups that attended the event.

Commissioner Semo reminded everyone to check out the Art in the Park exhibits that are up at Miners Memorial Heritage Park.

Commissioner Korpela encouraged the public to visit the Art Tour at the Depot.

P. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk