

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on August 28, 2023, at 5:30 P.M., preceded by Public Hearings at 5:15 P.M., 5:20 P.M. and 5:25 P.M., in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood.

1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:15 P.M.
2. Public Hearing to hear comment on a blight violation of 406 Bonnie Street (52-24-304-020). Code Enforcement Officer Jason Alonen addressed the Ironwood City Commission noting that three (3) letters were sent since the first notice and limited progress was made. He informed the City Commission that one unlicensed camper trailer, one unlicensed car hauler trailer, and six unlicensed vehicles remain at the property.

Richard Kolesar, 330 Bundy Street, spoke in favor of the Bonnie Street property being cleaned up as no one lives at the property.

Bruce Hooyman, 193 N. Burt Street, addressed the Commission stating the property owners are now driving through his yard to access their property and have brought tires to the property.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M.

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1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M.
 2. Public Hearing to hear comment on a blight violation of 157 E. Michigan Avenue (52-22-134-200). Code Enforcement Officer Jason Alonen addressed the Ironwood City Commission noting that three (3) letters were sent since the first notice and noted some progress was made. He informed the City Commission that used tires, stacks of pallets, unusable building materials, and debris is scattered throughout the property.

Ellen Metko, 164 E. Michigan Street, stated there were some improvements, but would appreciate the property being cleaned up.

Jackie Powers, 171 E. Michigan Street, stated she lives two doors down and owns two rental properties within the neighborhood. She also stated she expressed concern for 4 years and would like to see the property cleaned up. Jackie said in the winter no one shovels, or plows, rather they drive over the banks. The house is half sided and there's house wrap blowing constantly.

Ken Hazel, 171 E. Michigan Street, spoke in favor of the property being cleaned up. He stated they fixed up several homes in the area and would like to see the property owners accountable for cleaning up their property.

Greg Metko, 164 E. Michigan Street, expressed concern about the vehicles that come and go from the house that are speeding with several children around.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:28 P.M.

1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:28 P.M.
2. Public Hearing: To hear comment on a blight violation of 603 Cherry Place (52-23-455-160). Code Enforcement Officer Jason Alonen addressed the Ironwood City Commission noting that three (3) letters were sent since the first notice and more items were brought to the property since the first letter was sent. He informed the City Commission that there are four unlicensed vehicles and three unlicensed camper trailers currently onsite at the property.

Rae Semo, 611 Cherry Place, expressed concerns to the Commission regarding the property stating there are several items in the grass in addition to the vehicles, including several tires.

Commissioner Rick Semo asked if the City is authorized to clean up any blight items on the property or only documented items. Jason Alonen confirmed the City can take any items considered blight as part of the abatement process.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:32 P.M.

- A. Mayor Corcoran called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:32 P.M.
- B. Recording of the Roll.
PRESENT: Commissioners Andresen, Korpela, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran
ABSENT: There were none
- C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.
 - 1) Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2023.
 - 2) Review and Place on File:
 - a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting of July 18, 2023.
 - b. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023.
 - c. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2023.
 - d. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2023.
 - e. Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2023.

Motion was made by Andresen, 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. Review and Place on File:
 1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending July 31, 2023, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for July 2023.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Korpela, seconded by Andresen, to approve the Check Register Report for July 2023 as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

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

Dennis Kellett, 402 Bonnie Street, addressed the Commission about the blighted property at 406 Bonnie Street. He stated no one would want to live where he lives as there are pigeons messing on his sidewalk, house, siding. The neighbor has 7 vehicles, camper trailers, a boat that's been on the property for years, four snowmobiles, mattresses, freezer and tires.

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

Gene Henning, 148 E. Southland Avenue, expressed blight concerns on the vacant lot east of him. Mr. Henning stated that brush is growing out into the street and suggests that it won't be long before the tree roots push through the ground and blacktop on that lot. Additional items of concern include the noise on Cloverland Drive, stating Ironwood used to be a welcoming quiet and peaceful place to live.

OLD BUSINESS

I. Discuss and consider awarding the Lead Service Line Replacement Bid to Jake's Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$2,721,786.50 to replace 240 Lead Service Lines to homes in Ironwood.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to award the Lead Service Line Replacement Bid to Jake's Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$2,721,786.50 to replace 240 Lead Service Lines to homes in Ironwood. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

J. Discuss and consider awarding the bid for 3,000 tons of street sand to Jake's Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$30,000.00.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to award the bid for 3,000 tons of street sand to Jake's Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$30,000.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

K. Discuss and consider awarding the bid for 1,500 tons of road gravel to Jake's Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$16,830.00.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to award the bid for 1,500 tons of road gravel to Jake's Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$16,830.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- L. Discuss and consider awarding the bid for the DPW Garage Siding Replacement project to Angelo Luppino, Inc., in the amount of \$74,020.00.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to award the bid for the DPW Garage Siding Replacement project to Angelo Luppino, Inc., in the amount of \$74,020.00. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- M. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-026, a Resolution Ordering Removal and Abatement of the Hazard and Nuisance of the property located at 406 Bonnie Street (52-24-304-020).

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-026, a Resolution Ordering Removal and Abatement of the Hazard and Nuisance of the property located at 406 Bonnie Street (52-24-304-020), by September 11, 2023. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- N. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-027, a Resolution Ordering Removal and Abatement of the Hazard and Nuisance of the property located at 157 E. Michigan Avenue (52-22-134-200).

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #023-027, a Resolution Ordering Removal and Abatement of the Hazard and Nuisance of the property located at 157 E. Michigan Avenue (52-22-134-200), by September 11, 2023. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- O. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-028, a Resolution Ordering Removal and Abatement of the Hazard and Nuisance of the property located at 603 Cherry Place (52-23-455-160).

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-028, a Resolution Ordering Removal and Abatement of the Hazard and Nuisance of the property located at 603 Cherry Place (52-23-455-160), by September 11, 2023. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- P. Discuss and consider lowering the minimum bid amount from \$60,000 to \$30,000, to sell the 2007 Sterling Vactor Truck as surplus equipment.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, to lower the minimum bid amount from \$60,000 to \$30,000, to sell the 2007 Sterling Vactor Truck as surplus equipment. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- Q. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-029, Mayor's Proclamation recognizing "Suicide Prevention Week".

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #023-029, Mayor's Proclamation recognizing September 10-16, 2023 as "Suicide Prevention Week". Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- R. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-030, a Resolution of Local Support without Financial Commitment for the Ironwood Carnegie Library to submit a grant application through the MI Community Center grant program.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-030, a Resolution of Local Support without Financial Commitment for the Ironwood Carnegie Library to submit a grant application through the MI Community Center grant program. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- S. Discuss and consider contributing funds to the Hiawatha Park Playground Patronicity campaign.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to contribute \$10,000.00 to the Hiawatha Park Playground Patronicity campaign. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- T. Discuss and consider approving a long-term lease between the City of Ironwood and the Historic Ironwood Theatre for the Theatre Building.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve a 99-year lease between the City of Ironwood and the Historic Ironwood Theatre for the Theatre Building. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

U. City Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Updates

1. Phase 1 water plant project has started with site clearing by Snow Country Contracting. The General Contractor CD Smith is still working on a schedule for all other site work. They will likely be putting in building foundations this fall.
2. Hemlock Street construction is nearing completion. Striping is happening this afternoon with sign work happening over the next couple of days. The project will be open to traffic middle of this week. Punchlist work is remaining.
3. The Margaret Street culvert is now paved. Coleman will be closing out the project ASAP.
4. Angelo Luppino is still working on asphalt and concrete patches around town.
5. Miners Park Mountain Bike Trail project by Flow Track is continuing and scheduled to be completed by late September. The trails are open for use by the public. Signage is being ordered and will be installed in the next few weeks. The last trail building work that Joe has is the skills area by the dog park trailhead parking lot.
6. The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project will be beginning soon. Jakes will have 2023, 2024 and 2025 to complete approximately 225 water service line replacements.
7. Funding for the Phase 5 Utility project and Phase 2 water plant project should be announced in the next 7 days through the EGLE DWSRF program. We are optimistic

that we will do well with these since both projects scored 95 points out of the 100 possible for the water funding. Phase 5 sewer did not score well and is not being funded at this time. We may be looking at having to build just the water portion of Phase 5 if we are funded.

8. *We are beginning to work on pulling together the bidding documents for more electrical improvements at Curry Park. It appears that the service line and panel will need to be upgraded to upgrade more campsites.*

Managers Updates

1. *DPW Staffing update:*
 - a. *DPW Supervisor job posting will be coming out this next week. This will be a public advertisement.*
 - b. *Bill Tregembo has been selected from within our union to serve as our new Water Pump Station Operator, taking over for Tim Pertile after his retirement on November 30th, 2023. Bill has all the licensing necessary to fill this role and is beginning training immediately for the next three months under Tim.*
 - c. *Kurt Myers has been promoted to the Water Facilities Coordinator position and will be supervising all the in-Town water distribution work and staff. Kurt is also fully licensed for operating our water plant and will be assisting with the operation of the water plant.*
 - d. *Dave Strand has been selected to lead our Parks Maintenance / Streets position in place of Neil Corcoran. Neil's last day of work is on Thursday this week.*
 - e. *Cory Casari has been promoted to DPW Equipment repair foreman and we are currently working with a final candidate to fill Cory's old position of Equipment Repair Person.*
 - f. *Jared Sobolewski has been promoted to be our new Sexton of the Cemetery.*
 - g. *There will be the need to hire one additional DPW staff after the internal process is completed. I encourage anyone who is interested in joining our team to fill out a general employment application at any time.*
2. *City Fall Cleanup Day is going to be next week on Friday and Saturday September 8th and 9th.*
3. *Fall water main flushing schedule is still being nailed down for late September or early October.*

V. Other Matters.

Commissioner Semo wished to acknowledge the Emberlight Festival, commending the members and performers on the excellent Festival.

Commissioner Mildren expressed his thanks to the Range Art group for their great Art Display and sale in the Auditorium. He also requested that the City contact the Michigan Department of Transportation about slowing the speed of traffic on US2/Cloverland Drive through town.

Commissioner Andresen wished to remind the public that the first day of the School year is Tuesday, August 29, and asks that people be cognizant of busses and parents stopping to pick up and drop children off.

Mayor Corcoran suggested that the City send the Emberlight Festival members a thank you for all the great work and efforts put into their event.

W. Consider going into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a), personnel evaluation of the Finance Director/Treasurer.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to enter in to Closed Session at 6:34 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(a), to discuss the annual performance evaluation of the Finance Director/Treasurer. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

X. Return to Open Session.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried to return to open session at 7:30 p.m.

Y. Discuss and Consider salary adjustment for the Finance Director/Treasurer.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to go on official record stating the Commission gives Finance Director/Treasurer Paul Linn an excellent performance evaluation and recommend a salary increase of \$3.50 per hour, effective October 1, 2023. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Z. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 P.M.

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk