

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on August 14, 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, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: Commissioner Andresen (excused)

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2023.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Carnegie Library Board Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023.

b. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2023.

c. Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Special Meeting Minutes of July 12, 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 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 Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending June 30, 2023, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for June 2023.*

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

Brandon Midthun, N9239 Southrange Rd, addressed the Commission in support of additional cultivation licenses.

Brad Adney, 222 E. Ayer Street, spoke in favor of additional cannabis grow licenses in the Industrial District.

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

Damar Jackson, Owner of the Knights of Columbus, addressed the Commission about the Knights of Columbus building and the status of the other microbusinesses in the City as he is ready and the other two microbusinesses have not had much movement.

Diane Jackson, 331 W. Northland Avenue, addressed the Commission asking for a fair chance to a microbusiness for she and her son who have been ready to open a microbusiness in the Knights of Columbus building.

OLD BUSINESS

H. Discuss and consider authorizing Visu-Sewer's Change Order 1 for a reduction of \$3,000.03 for the City of Ironwood – Sewer Lining Project and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve Visu-Sewer's Change Order 1 for a reduction of \$3,000.03 for the City of Ironwood – Sewer Lining Project and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

I. Discuss and consider authorizing Change Order 3 for Flowtrack Mountain Bike Trails, LLC for a reduction of \$169.35 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners Memorial Heritage Park.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve Change Order 3 for Flowtrack Mountain Bike Trails, LLC for a reduction of \$169.35 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners Memorial Heritage Park. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

J. Discuss and consider authorizing Payment #16 to Flowtrack Mountain Bike Trails, LLC in the amount of \$16,110.65 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners Memorial Heritage Park.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve Payment #16 to Flowtrack Mountain Bike Trails, LLC in the amount of \$16,110.65 for the MDNR Trust Fund Mountain Bike Trail Project in Miners Memorial Heritage Park. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

K. Discuss and consider authorizing Work Order 2 for an addition of \$87,812.76 for the GCRC/Angelo Luppino 2023 HMA Culvert Patch Paving Services.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve Work Order 2 for an addition of \$87,812.76 for the GCRC/Angelo Luppino 2023 HMA Culvert Patch Paving Services. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

L. Discuss and consider authorizing Work Order 3 for a reduction of \$76,626.78 for the GCRC/Angelo Luppino 2023 Local Pulverizing & HMA project.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to approve Work Order 3 for a reduction of \$76,626.78 for the GCRC/Angelo Luppino 2023 Local Pulverizing & HMA project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- M. Discuss and consider Planning Commission recommendation for Marihuana Establishment Grow Licenses.

It was the consensus of the Commission to have the City Staff proceed with drafting an Ordinance to present to the City Commission for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

- N. Discuss and consider authorization to seek bids for 3,000 tons of street sand for maintaining roads during the winter.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to seek bids for 3,000 tons of street sand for maintaining roads during the winter.*

- O. Discuss and consider authorization to seek bids for 1,500 tons of road gravel for alley and street maintenance.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to seek bids for 1,500 tons of road gravel for alley and street maintenance.*

- P. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-022 to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:15 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of 406 Bonnie Street (52-24-304-020).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #023-022 to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:15 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of 406 Bonnie Street (52-24-304-020). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- Q. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-023 to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:20 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of 157 E. Michigan Avenue (52-22-134-200).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #023-023 to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:20 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of 157 E. Michigan Avenue (52-22-134-200). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- R. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-024 to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:25 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of 603 Cherry Place (52-23-455-160).

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to adopt Resolution #023-024 to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:25 P.M. to hear comment on a blight violation of 603 Cherry Place (52-23-455-160). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- S. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #023-025, a Resolution of Local Support without Financial Commitment for the Historic Ironwood Theatre to submit a grant application through the MI Community Center grant program.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-025, a Resolution of Local Support without Financial Commitment for the Historic Ironwood Theatre to submit a grant application through the MI Community Center grant program. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

T. Discuss and consider Service Agreement Addendum for Michelle Rigoni-Sivula.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to approve the Service Agreement Addendum for Michelle Rigoni-Sivula.

U. Discuss and consider Service Agreement Addendum for Chris and Kathy Syrjanen, Curry Park Campground Hosts.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to approve the Service Agreement Addendum for Chris and Kathy Syrjanen, Curry Park Campground Hosts.

V. Discuss and consider authorization to seek bids for a one-ton 4X4 truck to be used in the Department of Public Works Sewer Department.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to seek bids for a one-ton 4X4 truck to be used in the Department of Public Works Sewer Department.

W. Manager's Report.

City Manager, Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Updates

- 1. The USDA Rural Development loan closing happened on 8/3/23 for the Phase 1 water plant project. This was for two 40-year bonds: a \$5,439,000 Water Supply System Revenue Bond and \$361,000 Water Supply System Revenue Bond. The bonds will be used to fund the project first and then the \$5.5MIL in grants will be used to fund the 2nd half of the project. The project will be getting kicked off ASAP. There is a Preconstruction meeting tomorrow with CD Smith and some of their sub-contractors. Snow Country Contracting will be one of those sub-contractors who will be performing the earthwork which will be the first work performed on the site.*
- 2. Hemlock Street construction continues to progress. Concrete curb and gutter is mostly finished now and sidewalks are being completed this week. Paving is scheduled for next week.*
- 3. The Margaret Street culvert is waiting for pavement which will hopefully also be next week.*
- 4. Angelo Luppino completed mill and overlay work portions of Lowell Street, Norrie Street, Luxmore Street, and Lake St snowmobile crossing.*
- 5. Crack sealing contractor, Scodeller Construction from downstate Michigan, completed crack sealing work in the Norrie and Jessieville neighborhoods.*
- 6. 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 this week and will be installed in the next few weeks.*

7. *The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project is currently out to bid for a 8/21/23 bid date with construction through 2024 and 2025.*
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. *First, I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers, workers, children, parents and organizations that make the Gogebic County Fair possible. We had a great showing of guests this past weekend and we all look forward to enjoying the fair for many more years to come.*
2. *We are in the midst of some major staffing changes in the DPW Department. We have 4 retirements and two other people leaving for personal reasons, so we are going to be filling numerous DPW positions in the weeks to come.*
 - a. *After 10 years of service leading the City of Ironwood's DPW department, Bob Richards will be retiring effective 1/5/24. We will begin publicly advertising the DPW Supervisor position in the coming weeks to try to get someone on board ASAP to overlap with Bob prior to his departure.*
 - b. *After 17 years of service of which the past 7 years has been serving as the Water Pump Station Operator, Tim Pertile is retiring effective November 30th, 2023. Tim's Water Facilities Coordinator position will be posted to internal union applicants starting this week.*
 - c. *As mentioned at previous meetings, Neil Corcoran is retiring at the end of August after 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Ironwood. We are in the middle of the process filling his roles to internal union applicants currently.*
 - d. *Mike Lampart retired as DPW Equipment repair foreman at the end of July. Cory Casari has been promoted to that position and we are currently re-advertising Cory's old position of Equipment Repair Person after our first offer for the position didn't work out. That external posting is open until 8/25/23.*
 - e. *After almost 11 years of service with the City, our Sexton Dan Sertic has put in his notice to leave the City of Ironwood. We are in the process of advertising the Sexton position to internal union applicants which will be closing 8/16/23.*
 - f. *Zach Baross has been with the City of Ironwood for almost one year as an Equipment Operator II and has put in his notice to leave the City of Ironwood on 8/18/23.*
 - g. *We are in the process of converting two of our part time seasonal employees to be full time Union DPW staff. That process will be completed upon completion of physical and drug screening.*
 - h. *There will be the need to hire additional DPW staff after the internal process described above is completed. I encourage anyone who is interested in joining our team to fill out a general employment application at any time.*
 - i. *We are beginning the process of training new plow drivers for plowing routes this winter. With different staff, there will be minor changes to how things are done on plow routes. We will do our best to work with the public to keep these changes as unnoticeable as possible.*

- j. *The City wishes well to our 6 staff that are leaving. I have full faith in our 10 DPW staff that will be remaining and we look forward to the new staff that will be brought in to continue serving the citizens of Ironwood. I know we will have a great team moving forward.*
3. *Please continue to check out the Emberlight Festival schedule of events. There are still many more events through the end of August so check out the event list on emberlight.org.*

X. Other Matters.

Commissioner Korpela asked about the Historical Signs getting set up. City Manager, Paul Anderson, stated the signs are in the DPW's court and with the staffing changes being worked through it may not be a priority this summer.

Commissioner Mildren commented on the last First Friday event stating it was the most well attended First Friday he's seen this summer. Commissioner Mildren also asked about the option of doing a career fair with the DPW openings.

Mayor Corcoran asked about the Fall Clean Up, which is scheduled for September 8 & 9, 2023.

Y. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 P.M.

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk