

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on October 23, 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 Andresen, Korpela, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran

ABSENT: None

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2023.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Economic and Social Impact statement of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and their Audiences in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

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 Korpela, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending September 30, 2023, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for September 2023.

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve the Check Register Report for September 2023 as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

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

Mike Foley, Highland Copper Site Manager, commented on Agenda Item M, Resolution of Support, providing information to the Commission and Public on the early works construction projects that are taking place at the Copperwood Mine site located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships.

Larry Holcombe, 1145 Lablonde Lane, Hurley, commented in support of agenda items X and AA, regarding to the City Clerk and City Manager salary increases, stating his positive experiences working with both the Clerk and Manager.

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

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

I. Discuss and consider using the Compost Site as a Commercial Snow Dumping Site within the City of Ironwood.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to open a small section of the Compost Site for the purpose of Commercial Snow Dumping to one contractor for the 2023-2024 Winter Season, based on proposals submitted to the City. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

J. Discuss and consider approval of the Rural Development Pay Package #3 in the amount of \$600,327.67 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to approve the Rural Development Pay Package #3 in the amount of \$600,327.67 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project and authorize Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

K. Discuss and consider Amendment #7 of General Services Administration (GSA) lease for rental space located in the Memorial Building, 213 S. Marquette Street and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve Amendment #7 of General Services Administration (GSA) lease for rental space located in the Memorial Building, 213 S. Marquette Street and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

L. Discuss and consider Resolution #023-033 to comply with the provisions of PA 152.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-033 to comply with the provisions of PA 152. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

M. Discuss and consider Resolution #023-034, a Resolution of Support for the Copperwood Project.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to adopt Resolution #023-034, a Resolution of Support for the Copperwood Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

N. Discuss and consider Resolution #023-035, a Resolution to become a member of the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Authority.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpela, to adopt Resolution #023-035, a Resolution to become a member of the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Authority with a \$2,261.25 cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

O. Discuss and consider allocating the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to allocate the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds by committing \$344,000 for the Fire Truck Purchase and \$167,782.06 for electrical and internet upgrades at the Curry Park Campground. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

P. Discuss and consider approving the payment to Ruotsala Construction for \$28,000 for 4 fire hydrants on the Hemlock Street construction project.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, to approve the payment to Ruotsala Construction for \$28,000 for 4 fire hydrants on the Hemlock Street construction project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Q. Discuss and consider request from David and Malissa Runge regarding water utility connection and disconnection fees.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, to deny the request from David and Malissa Runge regarding water utility connection and disconnection fees. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

R. Discuss and consider approval of employment agreement with Jason Alonen for the DPW Supervisor/Assessor Position.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approve the of employment agreement with Jason Alonen for the DPW Supervisor/Assessor Position. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

S. Mayor's Appointments.

Mayor Corcoran re-appointed Bill Thomason and Jerry Gullan to the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board for 3-year terms (terms expiring October 31, 2026).

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, and carried, to approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Bill Thomason and Jerry Gullan to the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board for 3-year terms (terms expiring October 31, 2026).*

Mayor Corcoran appointed Jennifer Sabourin to the Human Relations and Equity Committee to fill an unexpired 3-year term (term expiring July 31, 2025).

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpela, and carried, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jennifer Sabourin to the Human Relations and Equity Committee to fill an unexpired 3-year term (term expiring July 31, 2025).*

T. City Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Updates

- 1. Funding for Phase 5 water project has been approved by EGLE. \$11.021MIL 100% grant funded through multiple grant programs of ARPA, DWI Grant and Lead Service Line Repair and Watermain Main ARPA programs. Our EGLE application for sewer funding was not successful, so we are in the process of applying for USDA Rural Development funding for approximately 50% of the project area. We are expecting to get a grant agreement in January and work on getting the design complete this winter for a 2024-2026 construction window. Until the grant agreement is executed, nothing is official.*
- 2. We have also been notified that Phase 2 of water plant was also successful with receiving 100% grant funding. The city will be receiving \$10.5MIL Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grant to fund Phase 2 of the manganese treatment project. Grant agreement is expected to come out in January, so nothing is official until that is executed. We are working through questions on the grant program in efforts to get a consultant on board ASAP to get started on the design this winter so that construction of Phase 2 can start right behind Phase 1.*
- 3. Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. The pump chamber walls are being poured and they continue to work on preparing more sections of the floors and walls for pouring concrete.*
- 4. The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project has begun. Jakes will have fall 2023, 2024 and 2025 to complete approximately 225 water service line replacements. They have begun work in the SW section of the City and have done 25 addresses so far and plan to perform 1-2 per day until winter sets in.*

Managers Updates

- 1. The Nov. 7 Election is underway. The Clerk's office sent out 731 absentee voter applications. Approximately 320 ballots are out, and 240 ballots are back in so far. Absentee ballots can be received up until 8 PM of election day.*
- 2. Public accuracy test for testing our voting machines is taking place on Wednesday October 25th.*
- 3. City Deer Hunt started Oct 1 and goes through 12/31. Come into the clerk's office for the application process. We currently have 9 hunters participating and two does have been harvested thus far.*
- 4. DPW Staffing update: all positions have now been filled. The last person will begin work on November 6. We asked for the public's patience this winter as we get people trained in and for the crew to become familiar with their new plowing routes. Snow is in the forecast for next week, so it will be plowing season before we know it.*
- 5. The compost site will be open until we receive snow. We are going to be open this weekend.*
- 6. Mt Zion access drive will be closing this Friday for the season.*

7. *We are still looking for one more member for the Ironwood Housing Board of Directors. Any qualified applicants should inquire at the Clerk's office.*
8. *Like to send well wishes to all 7 people running for City Commission in the upcoming election. Many thanks to our current commission for their excellent leadership and time, heart and soul that you all put into this important Civil Leadership Role of being a City Commissioner.*
9. *Ironwood Chamber of Commerce is putting on a Volunteer Fair on November 9th from 3-6 PM.*
10. *Halloween is next week! Halloween Trick or Treating will be celebrated from 4-7 PM on Tuesday 10/31 this year.*
11. *Another reminder for the large snowmobile sno-cross race at Mt Zion on December 15-17th. Organizers are expecting many 1000s of spectators to be in attendance and hotel rooms in the area are already selling out. Many thanks go out to the organizers of this event for putting Ironwood in the National Spotlight for the weekend and for locking in this event for several years to come.*

U. Other Matters.

Mayor Corcoran encouraged the Public to get out and vote on November 7 and wished to thank the Public for their support to all the City Commissioners.

- V. Consider going into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a), personnel evaluation of the City Clerk.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to enter in to Closed Session at 6:53 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(a), to discuss the annual performance evaluation of the City Clerk. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

W. Return to Open Session.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to return to open session at 7:24 p.m.*

- X. Discuss and Consider salary adjustment for the City Clerk.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to go on official record stating the Commission gives City Clerk Jennifer Jacobson an excellent annual performance evaluation and adjust the salary to \$68,000 per year, with future cost of living increases pursuant to the other non-union staff, effective November 28, 2023. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- Y. Consider going into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a), personnel evaluation of the Manager.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, to enter in to Closed Session at 7:26 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(a), to discuss the annual performance evaluation of the City Manager. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

Z. Return to Open Session.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to return to open session at 7:36 p.m.*

AA. Discuss and consider salary adjustment for the City Manager.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Korpela, to go on official record stating the Commission gives City Manager Paul Anderson an excellent performance evaluation and authorize increasing Paul's salary by the 2.5% annual cost of living adjustment given to other non-union staff, effective immediately. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

BB. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk