

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on December 11, 2023, at 5:30 P.M., preceded by a Public Hearings at 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 5:25 P.M.
2. Public Hearing: To hear comment on Ordinance Number 546, an Ordinance to vacate the Superior Street right of way between Francis Street and Cloverland Drive.

Tom Bergman, Community Development Director, discussed the request from the Aijala's and the process to vacate property. Tom confirmed that he checked with utilities and there are no utilities within the right of way being requested to vacate and no apparent issues should the property be vacated.

There were no comments from the Public.

3. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:27 P.M.

A. Mayor Corcoran called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:30 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioners Andresen, Korpi, 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 November 27, 2023.
- b. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2023.

2) Review and Place on File:

- a. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2023.
- b. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2023.
- c. Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2023.
- d. Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2023.

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

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

G. Discuss and consider approval of the Rural Development Pay Package #5 in the amount of \$492,745.41 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 Andresen, to approve the Rural Development Pay Package #5 in the amount of \$492,745.41 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.

H. Discuss and consider approving Change Order #2 for CD Smith, which is an increase of \$11,766.56 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, to approving Change Order #2 for CD Smith, which is an increase of \$11,766.56 for the Water Treatment Plant Phase I Project. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Discuss and consider the Ironwood Area Schools donation of the Norrie School property to the City.

Motion was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, to approve the Ironwood Area Schools donation of the Norrie School property to the City. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

J. Discuss and acknowledge introduction of Ordinance Number 546, an Ordinance to vacate the Superior Street right of way between Francis Street and Cloverland Drive.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to acknowledge the introduction of Ordinance Number 546, an Ordinance to vacate the Superior Street right of way between Francis Street and Cloverland Drive.

K. Discuss and consider authorizing City Staff to go out for bids for the following projects:

- a. 2024 Curry Park Electrical Upgrade
- b. 2024 Curry Park Site Amenities
- c. 2024 Asphalt Patching
- d. 2024 Concrete Patching
- e. 2024 Crack Sealing
- f. 2024 Pavement Striping
- g. 2024 Road Improvements
- h. 2024 Tub Grinding at the Compost Site
- i. 2024 Cemetery Grass Cutting
- j. 2024 Jessieville Water Tank Maintenance Work

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to authorize the City to call for bids on the following 2024 Projects: Curry Park Electrical Upgrade, Curry Park Site Amenities, Asphalt Patching, Concrete Patching, Crack Sealing, Pavement Striping, Road Improvements, Tub Grinding at the Compost Site, Cemetery Grass Cutting, Jessieville Water Tank Maintenance Work.

L. Discuss and consider the City Employee Gratuity for the Holiday Season.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Semo, to approve the City Employee Gratuity for the Holiday Season. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

M. Mayor's Appointments.

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Kathryn Maciejewske to the Carnegie Library Board for a five-year term, expiring December 31, 2028.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Kathryn Maciejewske to the Carnegie Library Board for a five-year term, expiring December 31, 2028.

Mayor Corcoran reappointed Sam Davey to the Planning Commission for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Sam Davey to the Planning Commission for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2026.

Mayor Corcoran appointed herself to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a two-year term, expiring November 4, 2025.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the Mayor's Appointment of herself to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a two-year term, expiring November 4, 2025.

Mayor Corcoran appointed Lauren Korpi to the Ironwood Theatre Board for a two-year term, expiring November 4, 2025.

Motion was made by Semo, seconded by Andresen, and carried, to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Lauren Korpi to the Ironwood Theatre Board for a two-year term, expiring November 4, 2025.

N. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Manager Updates

- *City Deer Hunt started again on 12/1 and continues through 12/31. We currently have 9 hunters participating with three does and one buck have been harvested thus far.*

- *With Christmas on a City Commission night, the second meeting in December will be held on 12/27.*
- *The slow start to the snow season has been good for our DPW department. It allowed the crew some time to learn their new plow routes with some light snowfall accumulation storms. This light snowfall is of course bad for our winter tourism economy. We continue to do our snow dance to bring more natural snow for all our winter tourism events.*
- *The snowmobile trails are still closed and waiting for more snow to build the base.*
- *SISU planning is in full effect for the January 6th event. Over 350 volunteers will spend countless hours in efforts to provide a high-quality experience for the 900 plus participants.*
- *The large snowmobile sno-cross race at Mt Zion is this weekend Friday through Sunday. Mt Zion is making as much snow as possible and organizers are planning on the event to proceed as expected. This 3-day event is slated to bring in thousands of people to the area, so everyone is excited for a great event.*
- *The ski hills are also making snow and are slowly opening on manmade snow. This weekend is the grand opening of the new high speed 6 pack chairlift at Jackson Creek Summit. This is the highlight of the new resort owner's \$10MIL infrastructure improvement into the two ski resorts they purchased two years ago.*
- *Thank you to all the participants who made floats for the Jack Frost Festival two weekends ago! We had 38 units participating in the parade with some fantastic floats that were enjoyed by a packed street of onlookers.*
- *Check out the Chambers website or Facebook page for more Jack Frost Festival events. Thursday 12/28 there will be a candlelight snowshoe in Miners Park from 6-8PM.*
- *American Red Cross Blood Drive is taking place at the Memorial Building on Thursday, December 14 from 9am – 2pm.*

Engineering Updates

- *Phase 1 of the water plant project continues with CD Smith Construction. Concrete pours have been continuing with multiple pours per week occurring.*
- *The \$3MIL lead service line replacement project continues with Jakes Excavating. They have done about 57 addresses so far and plan to perform 1-2 per day until winter snow conditions set in. We are finding a lot of service lines that were thought to be galvanized that are copper. Even though this takes a lot of administrative time to figure out, this is great news from our budgeting aspect, as it reduces the cost of working towards zero lead service lines.*
- *We've had a good couple of meetings this past week for the Curry Park electrical project. We will be submitting bid documents for review by MDNR so that we can be bidding the project out in January or February.*
- *We had a meeting on Phase 2 of the water plant w/ the design team and the State of Michigan today. Things are moving along well and plan to have the engineering contract ready for you to approve at the December 27th meeting. Design will occur from January through March, bidding April and May. Then construction will have to wait until Phase 1 construction wraps up by June of 2025. Phase 2 construction would be June 2025- Fall 2026.*

O. Other Matters.

Commissioner Semo requested to be excused from the December 27, 2023 and January 8, 2024 Commission meetings.

***Motion** was made by Andresen, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to excuse Commissioner Semo from the December 27, 2023 and January 8, 2024 meetings.*

Commissioner Mildren encouraged people to attend the sno-cross races this weekend at Mt. Zion. He also thanked everyone who attended the Jack Frost parade and shared with the Commission that the Upper Peninsula lost a great leader with the passing of Bob Niemi, who was a long time Marquette City Commissioner.

Mayor Corcoran wished everyone Happy Holidays.

P. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Semo, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 P.M.*

Kim S. Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk