

Proceeding of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on Monday, April 23, 2007 beginning at 5:30 P.M. along with a Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M. in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood.

1. Mayor Noren opened the Public Hearing at 5:20 P.M.
2. Public Hearing: To hear comment on the results of the Infrastructure Project # MSC 2040047-PW.

Community Development Director Patrick Merrill addressed the City Commission stating the City of Ironwood needs to close out the Infrastructure Project #MSC 2040047-PW project adjacent to the Luther L. Wright H.S. He further noted this project was not a road project but an infrastructure project, which was on time and on budget. New water, sewer, and road surfaces were provided through this project. No public comments were received.

Don Bertels, Water Plant Operator addressed the City Commission stating the objective of the project was to connect major ties to the current City of Ironwood water system. He noted previously the City of Ironwood had hydraulic water capacity problems in certain areas and those problems were corrected with the installation of the 12" water main installed during a portion of this project. Further discussion of the project took place.

3. Mayor Noren closed the Public Hearing at 5:26 P.M.
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- A. Mayor Noren called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:30 P.M.
- B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Adams, Kasieta, Koivisto, Toth, and Mayor Noren.
ABSENT: None.

- C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.*

- *1) Approval of Minutes – April 9th Regular City Commission Meeting.
- *2) Review and Place on File:
 - a) Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of February 7th and March 7th.
 - b) Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of March 22nd.
 - c) Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency Meeting Minutes of March 15th.
- *3) Approve ATV use on designated city streets during the Memorial Day Rally, May 24-28 and October 4-7, 2007 for the Hurley Area Chamber ATV Pumpkin Run.
- *4) Reschedule the Regular City Commission meeting for Monday, May 28th to Tuesday, May 29 the next day after the Memorial Day Holiday.

Motion was made by Koivisto, seconded by Kasieta to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- D. Receive and Place on File from Finance Director.
 1. Statement of Revenue & Expenditures.
 2. Monthly Cash Reports.

Finance Director Frederickson stated the General Fund is doing well as we enter into the spring construction season. She further noted the street funds were in the black this month with receiving snow funds because of the excessive snow we receive. Finance Director Frederickson further reviewed the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Funds with the City Commission.

Commissioner Toth requested some of the Code Enforcement budget be available for demolition.

Commissioner Koivisto questioned Finance Director regarding the Millage Rates and the benefits of going with MERZ for retirement. Commission Koivisto confirmed with Finance Director Frederickson the coverage under MERZ are the same benefits as what the bargaining units currently have and the savings to the taxpayers would be 2 mills. The City Commission questioned Finance Director Frederickson further regarding the financials.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Kasieta and carried to approve the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures for month ending March 31, 2007 and to receive and place on file the Monthly Cash Report.

E. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Toth and carried to approve the Agenda as presented.

F. Audience: Introduction of new City Employee Elizabeth Sweeney, Public Safety/City Manager Administrative Assistant.

City Manager Erickson introduced to the City Commission the new Public Safety/City Manager Administrative Assistant, Elizabeth Sweeney.

Public Safety Director Robert Erspamer and the City Commission welcomed Elizabeth Sweeney back to the area and to the City of Ironwood.

G. Audience: Dedication of the Heritage Sign at the Memorial Building.

Charlie Supercynski, President WUPHTN addressed the City Commission regarding the Heritage Sign located in front of the Memorial Building. Mr. Supercynski noted there are thirteen (13) historical sites in this County raising the level of awareness to our historical heritage.

The City Commission took a recess at 5:40 P.M. to dedicate the Western Upper Peninsula Heritage sign in front of the Memorial Building.

The meeting reconvened at 5:50 P.M.

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

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Consider application for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (IFT) from Burton Industries, Inc. d/b/a Burton Industries of Ironwood and schedule Public Hearing on Monday, June 25, 2007 at 5:15 P.M.
(***APPLICATION FOR REVIEW IN CLERK'S OFFICE***)

J. Consider application for Exemption of New Personal Property under Act 328 from Burton Industries, Inc. d/b/a Burton Industries of Ironwood and schedule Public Hearing on Monday, June 25, 2007 at 5:20 P.M.
(***APPLICATION FOR REVIEW IN CLERK'S OFFICE***)

Attorney Dave E. McDonald, Jr. from Jacobs, McDonald, Silc & Moore, P.C. addressed the City Commission regarding the above mentioned IFT and Exemption of New Personal Property under Act 328 through the State of Michigan. He noted the City of Ironwood has a good representative use of this program in their Industrial Park. Burton Industry chose to stay located in the City of Ironwood and will be reinvesting in the community. Attorney McDonald encouraged the City Commission to tour the facility and the City of Ironwood should be proud of their industrial park. He also noted this would preserve 45 jobs along with hiring four to eight new employees. Further comment was taken.

***Motion** was made by Adams, seconded by Kasieta and carried to schedule a public hearing for the Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (IFT) at 5:15 P.M. and for Exemption of New Personal Property under Act 328 at 5:20 P.M. on Monday, June 25, 2007 for Burton Industries, Inc. d/b/a Burton Industries of Ironwood.*

- K. Discuss and Consider authorizing submittal of a Michigan Council For Arts and History Grant Application on behalf of the Ironwood Theatre.

Community Development Director Patrick Merrill recommended the approval of the submittal of a Michigan Council for Arts and History Grant Application on behalf of the Ironwood Theatre. Mr. Merrill noted this Grant would be a Capital Improvement Grant through the Michigan Council for the Arts Grant in the amount of \$100,000 with a 50% match. The City of Ironwood would be expending zero funds and the Ironwood Theatre would be funding the local match. Further comment was taken.

***Motion** was made by Koivisto, seconded by Adams and carried to authorize submittal of a Michigan Council for the Arts and History Grant Application on behalf of the Ironwood Theatre.*

- L. Consider Resolution authorizing intergovernmental cooperation with Iron County and the City of Hurley for the reconstruction of the Norrie/Poplar Street Bridge.

City Manager Erickson mentioned the Norrie Street Bridge has been rated insufficient and through the Wisconsin MDOT funding is available to reconstruct the Bridge. The project is tentatively scheduled for 2009 Construction Season. Further discussion of this matter took place.

***Motion** was made by Koivisto, seconded by Toth to authorize the City of Ironwood to continue support of the intergovernmental cooperation with Iron County and the City of Hurley and authorize \$3,500 for survey and design of the Norrie/Poplar Street Bridge. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- M. Schedule a Special City Commission Meeting for Monday, May 7, 2007 at 4:00 P.M. to award bids for the Manhole Relining in the CDBG Construction Area.

***Motion** was made by Koivisto, seconded by Adams and carried to schedule a Special City Commission Meeting for Monday, May 7, 2007 at 5:15 P.M. to award bids for the Manhole Relining in the CDBG Construction Area.*

- N. Mayor's Appointment.

Mayor Noren appointed Rachel Hubbard to the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority (DIDA) to the unexpired term of Dan Adams (term expiring June 30, 2008).

***Motion** was made by Toth, seconded by Kasieta and carried to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Rachel Hubbard to the DIDA (term expiring June 30, 2008).*

- O. Manager's Report.

Manager Erickson verbally gave his manager's report noting the following items:

- *City Staff has been working on the 2007-08 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- *Ironwood Public Safety Department (IPSD) interviews were conducted last week. They have selected a candidate awaiting background checks.
- *Code Enforcement interviews were conducted today and will finish up tomorrow.
- *Make a Difference in your Community Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th.
- * Spring Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 19th.
- *City Wide Rummage Sale Saturday, June 2nd.
- *IPSD Bicycle Safety, May 5th.
- *MDOT preconstruction meeting took place regarding the improvement of the Silver Street Bridge deck, which is scheduled for reconstruction in June of this year.
- *Thanked Commissioner Kasieta for getting the additional recycling stations in place, one behind Precision Tool and the corner of Greenbush and Midland.
- *City Clerk's Office has been working on the upcoming School Election and will be open Saturday, May 5th to accept any last minute Absent Voter Ballots.
- *Camper Host for Curry Park is currently being advertised.
- *Administrative Assistant Day is scheduled for this Wednesday.

P. Commissioner Comment (Five Minute Limit).

Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Toth encouraged residents to participate in the "Make A Difference in Your Community Day" on May 5th along with the City Wide Clean Up scheduled for May 19th. Commissioner Toth mentioned the money available for qualified applicants

Commissioner Kasieta requested signage for Curry Park and advertisement for the additional dump stations. He also volunteered to set up an appointment for a tour of Burton Industries.

Commissioner Koivisto had several questions for Attorney Dave McDonald, Jr. regarding the promotion and training of specific jobs for employers located in the industrial park. Further discussion took place.

Mayor Noren had several questions for staff regarding Fire Hydrants, burning of yard waste, use of speed sign, and procedure for filling of potholes. Mayor Noren also thanked Charlie Supercynski for his endless dedication and enthusiasm when it comes to Copper Peak and the Heritage Trail System.

Q. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda (Five Minute Limit).

Jim Albert, of 133 W. Aurora Street questioned the City Commission regarding the hiring of the Administrative Assistant position created at the Ironwood Public Safety Department.

City Manager Erickson informed Mr. Albert the hiring was strictly a staff's decision and it is a newly created position to help the City of Ironwood in moving forward. Mr. Erickson encouraged Mr. Albert to come in and get a copy of the new job description.

R. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Koivisto and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 P.M.

Bruce A. Noren, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk