

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on August 27, 2007 at 5:30 P.M. in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood, Michigan.

A. Mayor Noren called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M..

B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioner Adams, Kasieta, Key, Toth, and Mayor Noren.

ABSENT: None.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.*

*1) Approval of Minutes – August 13th Regular City Commission Meeting.

*2) Review and Place on File:

a) Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency Meeting Minutes of July 19th.

b) Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Meeting Minutes of April 27th, May 25th, and June 22nd.

*3) Designate City Manager Scott B. Erickson as the MML Convention Delegate and the alternative City Clerk Karen M. Gullan.

*4) Awarding lowest bid to Jack Doheny for a 2007 single Axle 2100 Series Vactor in the amount of \$272,297 without Trade and authorize advertisement to sell current vactor with a minimum bid of \$42,000 (or trade if the minimum bid is not met).

*5) Approve and authorize City of Ironwood to enter into an License Agreement with the Ironwood Model Airplane Club #4794 to utilize City owned property.

John Cain, of 407 S. Suffolk Street requested item #4 be removed and placed on the regular agenda.

*Motion was made by Adams, supported by Kasieta to approve the Consent Agenda as amended removing item *4) Awarding lowest bid to Jack Doheny for a 2007 single Axle 2100 Series Vactor in the amount of \$272,297 without Trade and authorize advertisement to sell current vactor with a minimum bid of \$42,000 (or trade if the minimum bid is not met) and place it on the regular agenda under item H1. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

D. Receive and Place on File from Finance Director.

1. Monthly Cash Reports.

A brief report from Finance Director Julie Frederickson took place. Commissioner Toth questioned a disbursement. Finance Director Frederickson responded to the City Commission noting there was not enough room to explain the full description.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Key and carried to place on file the Monthly Cash Reports.

E. Approval of the Agenda.

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

F. Audience: George Goerig.

(RE: Changing the Vacancies and Qualifications in the City Charter).

George Goerig, of 202 W. Arch addressed the City Commission regarding possible changes to the City of Ironwood Charter. Mr. Goerig felt the City Commission was not represented by the voters of the City of Ironwood since a majority of the City Commission was appointed. Further discussion took place.

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

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

- H. Consider scheduling a Public Hearing for Monday, September 10, 2007 at 5:10 P.M. to consider abatement of public nuisances (blight) of 516 Birch St., 386 Aspen St., 380 Aspen St., 213 Bonnie Rd., and VanBuskirk Rd. (Parcel #52-26-226-100).

Code Enforcement Officer Travis Smee noted 386 Aspen Street is in compliance.

Motion was made by Key, seconded by Adams to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, September 10, 2007 at 5:10 P.M. to consider abatement of public nuisances (blight) of 516 Birch St., 380 Aspen St., 213 Bonnie Rd., and VanBuskirk Rd. (Parcel #52-26-226-100).

- H1. Awarding lowest bid to Jack Doheny for a 2007 single Axle 2100 Series Vactor in the amount of \$272,297 without Trade and authorize advertisement to sell current vactor with a minimum bid of \$42,000 (or trade if the minimum bid is not met).

John Cain, of 407 S. Suffolk St. questioned the City Commission regarding the trade in price from Jack Doheny, repairs, purpose, and use of the vactor. He also asked the City Commission if this piece of equipment would be used on water breaks. The City Commission confirmed it would be used for both water and sewer. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Commissioner Kasieta noted he was on the Equipment Committee and agreed 100% the vactor is a very important piece of equipment.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Kasieta to accept the recommendations of the Equipment Committee to award the lowest bidder, Jack Doheny for a 2007 single Axle 2100 Series Vactor in the amount of \$272,297 without Trade and authorize advertisement to sell current vactor with the minimum bid of \$42,000 (or trade if the minimum bid is not met). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- I. Consider adopting #07-010 Resolution Governing the 2007 Comprehensive Deer Management Bow Hunt in the City of Ironwood; Setting Rules and Standards; and Setting Fees and approval of the 2007 Comprehensive Deer Management Area Map.

City Manager Erickson addressed the City Commission stating this is the second year for the Comprehensive Deer Management Bow Hunt. He felt it was very successful last year and the main idea is to manage the deer herd. Manager Erickson noted this year the Comprehensive Deer Management Bow Hunt Committee has recommended an additional season December 1st through the 14th mirroring the Michigan Bow Hunt Season, adding additional designated areas, and offer an Earn-A-Buck program. The City of Ironwood would only draw three (3) buck tags from hunters who hunt the first season. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Department of Natural Resource Officer Grant Emery and members of the Comprehensive Deer Management Committee were present to answer questions. Officer Emery noted the City of Ironwood is the lead in developing a program to control the deer herds and felt comfortable with the Deer Management Committee's recommendations.

***Motion** was made by Kasieta, seconded by Key and carried to adopt #07-010 Resolution Governing the 2007 Comprehensive Deer Management Bow Hunt in the City of Ironwood; Setting Rules and Standards; and Setting Fees and approval of the 2007 Comprehensive Deer Management Area Map.*

J. Updates of the following activities:

- *Public Works
- *Water & Sewer
- *Blight Enforcement

A brief review of current projects from each of the above-mentioned departments took place.

Mayor Noren not only thanked Travis Smee for his efforts in getting residents to comply with the blight ordinance, but also thanked John Cain and Tom Laabs for their efforts on serving on the committee who gave Mr. Smee the tools to enforce the ordinance.

Commissioner Kasieta again questioned Travis Smee's compensation. City Manager Erickson noted he would discuss this matter with Travis.

Commissioner Key and Adams offered their stipend to compensate the Blight Enforcement Officer Travis Smee.

K. Manager's Report.

City Manager Erickson gave verbally a brief review of all the projects finishing up. He noted the Luxmore/Ayer Street Project was done and would be open on Friday. The bridgework on Aurora/Silver Street was finished, and the survey work on Alfred Wright Boulevard would be starting soon.

L. Commissioner Comment (Five Minute Limit).

Commissioner Toth wished everyone a safe Labor Day Weekend and urged everyone to watch for children going back to school.

Commissioner Key questioned if the City Commission applications are open to the public. City Clerk Karen Gullan confirmed and Commissioner Key requested they be made available.

Commissioner Kasieta questioned the use of Margaret Street by large trucks.

Commissioner Adams offered his next check to compensate the Blight Enforcement Officer.

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

Howard Aspinwall of 824 Florence Street expressed his concerns about the open meetings act.

Jim Peterson, of 357 W. Midland Street addressed the City Commission stating it was very nice they were willing to donate their money to the Blight Enforcement Officer but felt the City of Ironwood could provide him a vehicle.

Steven Frank, of 212 W. Oak Street addressed the City Commission expressing his dismay with the time they spend on issues and the comments made by the Mayor regarding personal attacks on his family members.

Jim Albert, of 133-135 W. Aurora Street questioned Commissioner Adams regarding the recruitment of Commissioner Key and felt he was violating the Open Meetings Act.

Ron Nygard, of 624 Bonnie Street addressed the City Commission stating individuals were given plenty of opportunity to address any issues with the Comprehensive Deer Management Hunt Committee. He felt the Committee did a good job in addressing all the issues.

Justin Richards, of 401 W. Norrie Street addressed the City Commission regarding the use of the City owned property behind the fairgrounds. He felt there would be a conflict with other hunters since he and several of his friends hunt on the City owned property in Ironwood Township.

Officer Grant Emery addressed this issue by stating under the DMA Permit it is allowed on any City owned property or property adjacent to City property. In his opinion it would be allowed.

Arvo Toolanen, of 247 Pine Street requested a Town Hall Meeting be conducted on the Ironwood Carnegie Library. Mayor Noren noted this is a library issue and previously several meetings were held on the proposed Ironwood Carnegie Library Renovation.

John Cain, of 407 S. Suffolk questioned the Finance Director regarding the fund balance. Mr. Cain felt in his opinion the City of Ironwood should make use of temporary part time employees for 89 days to help ease the shortage of workers during the summer months due to vacation.

Tom Laabs, of 711 Hibbert suggesting using the \$10,800 collected by the Blight Enforcement to further Travis Smee's employment. City Manager Erickson responded to this request.

Lou Bonugura, of 247 Pine Street requested the survey conducted by the Hovey Project justifying the need for this type of rentals. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Edna Tatham, of 814 VanBuskirk questioned why it was an antlerless Bow Hunt and not a Buck Hunt. DNR Officer Grant Emery informed the DMA Permits are only for antlerless deer not bucks.

Howard Aspinwall, of 824 Florence Street addressed the City Commission regarding a City Employee who is non-elected and nepotism. He felt a Planning Commission member purchased property benefiting them financially. City Attorney Cossi addressed Mr. Aspinwall informing him he should call the State Police if he felt a crime was committed. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Al Traczyk, of 123 E. Pewabic questioned Mayor Noren regarding when and where is the proper time to discuss items if not at the City Commission meeting. Mayor Noren stated he would need to know what item he wants to discuss before making a decision. Mayor Noren also stated it is clearly the Mayor's job to allow the public to speak. He further commented on how individuals should address the City Commission by always being polite, courteous, etc.

Mayor Noren called several people out of order and called for a motion to enter into closed session.

N. Consider Closed Session to discuss pending litigations with NSP Tax Tribunal.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Key to enter into closed session at 7:05 P.M. to discuss pending litigation with NSP Tax Tribunal and return to open session to take action. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

O. Return to Open Session

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Key and carried to return to open session at 7:22 P.M.

***Motion** was made by Toth, seconded by Kasieta to accept City Attorney A. Dennis Cossi's recommendation to settle the NSP Tax Tribunal Case against the City of Ironwood in the amount of \$17,945.17, following other communities who have previously settled. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

P. Adjournment.

***Motion** was made by Toth, seconded by Adams and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 P.M.*

Bruce A. Noren, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk