

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on August 13, 2007 at 5:30 P.M., along with two (2) Public Hearing at 5:00 P.M. and 5:15 P.M. in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood, Michigan.

5:00 P.M.

1. Mayor Noren opened the Public Hearing at 5:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call.

PRESENT: Commissioner Adams, Kasieta, and Mayor Noren.

ABSENT: Commissioner Toth.

*Commissioner Toth arrived at 5:01 P.M.

3. Public Hearing: To hear comment relative to a \$100,000 Revolving Loan Fund Application (RLF) for Josephson's Nursing Home.

Community Development Director Patrick Merrill addressed the City Commission regarding the Revolving Loan Fund Application (RLF) for Josephson's Nursing Home. He introduced Priscilla and Jim Cross who were present to talk about their project. The approximate cost of the project is 6.6 million and will be a 6-year payback at 5% interest. Josephson's Nursing Home will be creating 38 to 45 new (skilled) jobs and increase the beds from 47 to 67. Mr. Merrill also noted this is a Revolving Loan Fund provided to the City of Ironwood with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money. Further comment on this matter was received.

4. Mayor Noren closed the Public Hearing at 4:05 P.M.

5:15 P.M.

1. Mayor Noren opened the Public Hearing at 5:15 P.M..
2. Public Hearing: To hear comment relative to the abatement of public nuisances (blight) at the following locations:

110 Mill Street
712 Sutherland Street
144 Ridge Street

City Manager Scott Erickson addressed the City Commission regarding the abatement of the above noted properties. Mr. Erickson noted two (2) out of the three (3) property owners have complied with the one at 712 Sutherland Street still not in compliance. Several area residents expressed their feelings about this home because of the disrepair not only on the outside, but also in the inside and requested that City Official review this matter closer.

Blight Enforcement Officer Travis Smee briefly explained to the City Commission his plan of action would be to first clean up the yard.

City Manager Erickson recommended the City Commission act on the abatement of this property first before acting on condemnation proceedings. He mentioned condemnation is a longer process and would not solve the clean up efforts. Further comment was received.

3. Mayor Noren closed the Public Hearing at 5:30 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, Toth, and Mayor Noren.

ABSENT: None.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.*

- *1) Approval of Minutes – July 23rd Regular City Commission Meeting and July 24th Special City Commission Meeting.
- *2) Review and Place on File:
 - a) Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of July 11th.
 - b) Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of August 2nd.
- *3) Award lowest bid to Wakefield Hardware in the amount of \$14,496.00 for 800 Dual Sensor (photoelectric & ionization) Smoke Detectors at \$18.12 each.
- *4) Authorize advertisement for bids for the installation/replacement of 20 fire hydrants.
- *5) Consider approval of Traffic Control Order No. 85 amendment to Traffic Control Order No. 8 parking on Hill and Pabst Street next to Ironwood High School.

*Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Adams to approve the Consent Agenda as amended removing item *4) Authorize advertisement for bids for the installation/replacement of 20 fire hydrants and place it on the regular agenda under F1. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Toth 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.

OLD BUSINESS

F. Discuss and Consider appointment of new City Commissioner to fill unexpired term of Clifford Koivisto (term expiring November 2007).

Motion was made by Adams seconded by Toth to appoint Michael Key as the new City Commissioner to fill the unexpired term of Clifford Koivisto (term expiring November 2007). Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

City Clerk Karen M. Gullan administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed City Commissioner Michael Key.

F1. Authorize advertisement for bids for the installation/replacement of 20 fire hydrants.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Toth to authorize advertisement for bids for the installation/replacement of 20 fire hydrants.

ROLL CALL: Yes (4) Commissioner Key, Toth, Adams, and Mayor Noren.
No (1) Commissioner Kasieta.

Motion carried on a 4 to 1 vote.

G. Consider approving a \$100,000 RLF Loan for Josephson’s Nursing Home.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Kasieta to approve a \$100,000 RLF Loan for Josephson’s Nursing Home. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

H. Consider adopting Resolution #07-008 a Resolution declaring blighted property for abatement.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Toth to adopt Resolution #07-008 a Resolution declaring 712 Sutherland Street blighted property.

ROLL CALL: Yes (4) Commissioner Adams, Kasieta, Toth, and Mayor Noren.
No (1) Commissioner Key.

Motion carried on a 4 to 1 vote.

I. Adopt Resolution Submitting Ballot Proposal for Carnegie Library Improvements.

Mayor Noren requested the City Commission’s approval to hear the ballot language first before adopting the resolution submitting the Ballot Proposal for the Carnegie Library Improvements.

City Manager Erickson addressed the City Commission stating the ballot language should read to be levied in 2008 is 1.137 mills (\$1.137....) not 2009 is 1.274 mills (\$1.274.....).

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Key and carried to adopt a Resolution Submitting a Ballot Proposal for the Carnegie Library Improvements.

J. Approval of ballot language for the City of Ironwood to assess a new millage of an estimated 1.274 mills for 30 years for the purpose of paying the cost of renovating the Carnegie Library amount not to exceed \$1,600,000.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Toth and carried to approve the following ballot language:

IRONWOOD CARNEGIE LIBRARY BOND PROPOSAL

Shall the City of Ironwood, County of Gogebic, State of Michigan borrow the principal sum of not to exceed \$1,600,000 and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore in one or more series, payable in not to exceed thirty (30) years from the date of issuance, for the purpose of paying the cost of improving, renovating, equipping and reequipping the Ironwood Carnegie Library, including site improvements therefore and appurtenances and attachments thereto? The estimated millage to be levied in 2008 is 1.137 mills (\$1.137 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 0.99 mills (\$0.99 per \$1,000 of taxable value). The taxes will be disbursed to the City to pay debt service on the bonds.

YES

NO

NEW BUSINESS

K. Award professional service agreement for the design, construction staking, and MDOT reporting for the Alfred Wright Boulevard reconstruction project.

City Manager Scott Erickson addressed the City Commission recommending to them to only award the professional service agreement for the initial survey and design of the Alfred Wright Boulevard reconstruction project. He further recommended the staking/inspection and MDOT reporting service be evaluated separately after the design has been completed.

***Motion** was made Toth, seconded by Key to award the professional service agreement for the data collection and design services work to the lowest bidder U.P. Engineering in the amount of \$26,720.00 upon the recommendation of the City Manager Scott Erickson. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

- L. Update on State of Michigan requirements for a City Wide Reassessment of Property Values. Authorize request for proposals (RFP) for City Wide Reassessment Services.

***Motion** was made by Adams, seconded by Key and carried to authorize City Staff to obtain RFP's for City Wide Reassessment Services.*

- M. Authorize realignment of bulk water rate for Ironwood Township.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Toth to authorize the lowering of the bulk water rate for Ironwood Township being consistent with the City of Hurley's rates.

ROLL CALL: Yes (4) Commissioner Key, Toth, Adams, and Kasieta.
No (1) Mayor Bruce Noren.

Motion carried on a 4 to 1 vote.

- N. Updates of the following activities:
 - *Public Works
 - *Water & Sewer
 - *Blight Enforcement

A brief review of current projects from each of the above mentioned departments for the City Commission took place.

- O. Manager's Report.

City Manager Erickson gave verbally a brief review of all the projects currently being done by contractors in the City of Ironwood and noted they are all coming to a close.

Manager Erickson mentioned an informational and public input meeting on the Comprehensive Deer Management Program would take place on Monday, August 20, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. at the Memorial Building. He further noted this matter after the informational and public input meeting took place would bring back any suggestions for City Commission approval.

- P. Commissioner Comment. (Five Minute Limit).

The City Commission thanked all the applicants for applying for the vacant seat of Commissioner Cliff Koivisto and congratulated Commissioner Michael Key on his appointment. The City Commission also recognized Volunteer Firemen Michael Wiemer and Robert Tervonen for recently receiving the Firefighters of the Year Award.

Commissioner Adams requested City Staff look into conducting auctions for City owned surplus property in the future.

Commissioner Key addressed the City Commission thanking them for his appointment and noted he is very bullish on the area. He expressed his pleasure with all the new development going on in the community, felt the City of Ironwood has a good staff, and is looking forward to working with everyone.

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

George Goerig expressed his concerns about there being only two (2) City Commissioners left on the City Commission who were elected by the people. He felt the City Charter should be changed in this regards.

James Albert congratulated City Commissioner Key on his appointment.

Lou Bonagura questioned if funds were received from the company who obtained City Services for sweeping a parking lot. Finance Director Julie Frederickson confirmed the fees for this service were paid to the City of Ironwood.

- R. Consider Closed Session to discuss the status of contract negotiations with AFSCME Local 1538, Ironwood Professional Police Association Union, and personnel related agreement with the AFSCME Local 1538 Union.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Toth to consider entering into closed session at 6:44 P.M. to discuss the status of contract negotiations with AFSCME Local 1538, Ironwood Professional Police Association Union, and personnel related agreement with the AFSCME Local 1538 Union. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- S. Return to Open Session.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Toth and carried to return to open session at 7:12 P.M.

- T. Consider approval of personnel related agreement with AFSCME Local 1538.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Adams and carried to approve the personnel related agreement with AFSCME Local 1538.

- U. Extend existing AFSCME Local 1538 contract to September 30, 2007.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Kasieta and carried to extend the existing AFSCME Local 1538 contract to September 30, 2007.

- V. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Adams and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 P.M.

Bruce A. Noren, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk