

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on May 14, 2007 at 5:30 P.M. in the Commissioner 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, Toth, and Mayor Noren.

ABSENT: Commissioner Koivisto (Excused).

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.*

- *1) Approval of Minutes – April 23rd Regular City Commission Meeting & Special City Commission Meeting of May 7th.
- *2) Review and Place on File:
 - a) Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of April 19th.
 - b) Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of April 11th.
 - c) Ironwood Carnegie Library Meeting Minutes of Feb. 20th & Mar. 20th.
- *3) Approve alteration of the zoning map regarding the rezoning of properties to multi-family residential (R-2) along Ayer Street.
- *4) Scheduling a Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 29th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss and consider action on the following alley vacation request (see map).
 - Abandon the north-south alley at the corner of US 2 & Lake Street.
 - Abandon the westerly ninety (90) feet of the east-west alley at the same location.
- *5) Scheduling a Board of Zoning Appeals (BOZA) Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 29th at 5:10 p.m. submitted by Ken Fahrner regarding 114 S. Curry St.
- *6) Scheduling a Board of Zoning Appeals (BOZA) Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 29th at 5:15 p.m. by Dominic Kessler, 503 Bundy Street.
- *7) Scheduling a Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 29th, at 5:20 p.m. for an RLF application submitted by Jerry Taplin in the amount of \$16,000.
- *8) Approve Resolution No. 07-004 approving the Luxmore/Ayer Street Safety Reconstruction Project Contract #07-5191 between the City of Ironwood and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and authorize the City Mayor and City Clerk to execute this contract.
- *9) Approve Grant Application for Wildland Brush/Attack Vehicle for \$18,000 for FEMA.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Adams to approve the Consent Agenda amending item 9 from \$18,000 to \$118,000 and removing items 9 and 4 placing them under new business as H1. and H2. respectively. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Adams, and carried to approve the amended agenda as presented including item F1. AUDIENCE: Gary Wheeler, President Gogebic Community College (RE: Gogebic Community College).

- E. AUDIENCE: Renaissance Faire Committee.
(RE: Discuss construction of a proposed Theme Entrance at the Norrie Park Gate)

Karen Mallum from the Lake Superior Renaissance Faire addressed the City Commission regarding an entrance to be constructed at Norrie Park. The entry would be a timber frame structure. She informed the City Commission Contractor David Suutala had volunteered to build the timber frame entrance to Norrie Park. Mrs. Mallum noted with the help of Kiwanis and others there would be no cost to the City of Ironwood.

David Suutala handed out a sketch of the structure for the City Commission for their review.

Commissioner Kasieta questioned the height of the structure. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Toth and carried to authorize the City Manager, Commissioner Kasieta, and any other City Staff to work with the Lake Superior Renaissance Faire Committee to develop a plan to construct a timber frame structure at the entrance to Norrie Park.

- F. AUDIENCE: Elaine Erickson, Library Director.
(RE: Rural Development Loan and Proposed Millage for Carnegie Library).

Karen Mallum, Board of Trustee President for the Carnegie Library addressed the City Commission showing her support for the proposed renovation of the Carnegie Library and introduced Elaine Erickson the Library Director.

Library Director Elaine Erickson gave a presentation of the proposed renovation of the Carnegie Library stating the theme of the project should be "Restoring the Past to Build the Future". Mrs. Erickson requested the City Commission let the voters decide on whether or not to renovate the Library in the amount of \$1.6 million and apply for a low interest loan through Rural Development to pay it back. A lengthy discussion of this matter took place.

- F1. AUDIENCE: Gary Wheeler, President Gogebic Community College
(RE: Gogebic Community College)

President of the Gogebic Community College Gary Wheeler addressed the City Commission informing them he sees fragmented components to the community. He further asked for a mechanism for developing what an employer needs. Mr. Wheeler stated the Gogebic Community College is very interested in hosting a meeting with area employers to find a direction on where to go for various educational and technical training.

The City Commission requested the City Manager draft a motion of support for the Gogebic Community College.

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

Mayor Noren requested the City Commission leave the floor open for citizens to speak during the various agenda items. The City Commission agreed to allow citizens to speak during the various agenda items.

NEW BUSINESS

- H. Consider approving the submittal of a Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) pre-application to MSHDA for the area bounded by Ayer Street-south, Luxmore Street-east, RR grade-north and Lake Street-west.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Toth and carried to approve the submittal of a Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) pre-application to MSHDA for the area bounded by Ayer Street-south, Luxmore Street-east, RR grade-north and Lake Street-west.

- H1. Approve Grant Application for Wildland Brush/Attack Vehicle for \$118,000 for FEMA.

Director Robert Erspamer addressed the City Commission regarding the Grant Application for a Wildland Brush/Attack Vehicle. He noted this is a 95% grant and the City of Ironwood's portion is approximately \$6,000. This truck would allow the Fire Department to access areas where a large fire truck would not be able to go. Further discussion of this matter took place.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Kasieta and carried to approve the Grant Application for a Wildland Brush/Attack Vehicle for \$118,000 from FEMA.

- H2. Scheduling a Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 29th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss and consider action on the following alley vacation request (see map).
- Abandon the north-south alley at the corner of US 2 & Lake Street.
 - Abandon the westerly ninety (90) feet of the east-west alley at the same location.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Toth and carried to schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 29th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss and consider action on the following alley vacation request abandoning the north-south alley at the corner of US2 & Lake Street and the westerly ninety (90) feet of the east-west alley at the same location.

- I. Discuss and consider approval of application on behalf of the Carnegie Library for a USDA Rural Development Loan in the amount of \$1.6 million.

Library Director Elaine Erickson urged the City Commission to consider this application and stated the City of Ironwood would be under no obligation for the Loan if the millage fails.

Lou Bonagura of 247 E. Pine Street requested the City Commission table this matter until a public hearing could be held. Further discussion of this matter took place with the City Commission receiving comments of support from area residents who were present.

Motion was made by Kasieta to table this matter until a later date to allow a town hall meeting to take place.

Motion dies for a lack of a second.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Adams to allow the Carnegie Library to apply for a USDA Rural Development Loan in the amount of \$1.6 million.

ROLL CALL:

- Yes (2): Commissioner Toth and Mayor Noren
No (2): Commissioner Adams and Kasieta

Motion was lost due to a tie vote.

- J. Consider approval of placing a millage request for the Carnegie Library on the ballot for the November 6, 2007 Election to cover the USDA Loan.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Kasieta to approve the placing of a millage request for the Carnegie Library on the ballot for the November 6, 2007 Election to cover the USDA Loan.

ROLL CALL:

Yes (3): Commissioner Kasieta, Toth, and Mayor Noren.
No (1): Commissioner Adams.

Motion carried on a 3 to 1 vote.

- K. Consider approval of an option agreement with FarmHaus, LLC for the purchase of approximately 8 acres of City owned property located north of Ayer Street and West of Luxmore Street.

City Attorney Cossi requested paragraph 12 be removed and the words purchased in “as is condition” and a reversionary clause be inserted.

Bob Schonberg from FarmHaus, LLC addressed the City Commission noted their vision is to construct 8 to 12 family homes, townhouses or single family homes. He noted they would be helping the City with additional taxes and it is being done with private money.

Steven Frank of 212 E. Oak Street expressed his concerns regarding the project and who would be able to afford these homes.

Jim Albert of 133 W. Aurora Street had several questions for the developer.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Adams to approve and authorize the appropriate staff to sign and enter into an option agreement with FarmHaus, LLC for the purchase of approximately 8 acres of City owned property located north of Ayer Street and West of Luxmore Street in the amount of \$20,000 removing paragraph 12 on Hazardous Substances, inserting purchased in as is condition with a reversionary clause. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- L. Authorize staff to prepare a “Draft” assessment policy for consideration of potential sustainable funding for future street and utility improvements.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Toth and carried to authorize City staff to prepare a “Draft” of an assessment policy for consideration of potential sustainable funding for future street and utility improvements.

- M. Consider approving Resolution of Understanding and Amending the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Management Agreement.

City Manager Erickson informed the City Commission the City of Hurley requires this agreement to be approved so they can apply for their USDA Financing.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Toth and carried to approve the Resolution of Understanding and Amending the Gogebic Iron Wastewater Management Agreement.

- N. Manager’s Report.

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

- *Manager Erickson introduced the Blight Enforcement Officer Travis Smee. He noted Travis will be available from 2-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- *Spring Clean Up across from Northwoods Auto will take place this Saturday, May 19th from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- *Recognized the Water & Sewer Department for finding a leak.
- *Noted a group is interested in conducting remote control airplanes at the old landfill site.
- *New Camper Host at Curry Park by the name of Dennis and Jane Thomas.
- *Joint City Commission and Ironwood Chamber of Commerce Workshop on Tuesday,

May 15th to discuss relocating the Ironwood Chamber of Commerce Office.

*Townhall Meeting to be held Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

*Bids for Lowell Street Project will be opened on May 23rd.

O. Commissioner Comment. (Five Minute Limit).

The City Commission thanked everyone for coming out to help with “Make a Difference Day” and the Bicycle Safety.

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

Lou Bonagura of 247 E. Pine Street questioned the removal of garbage located at a home across the Street from his property located on Oak Street.

Ian Shackleford, of 141 W. Arch Street addressed the City Commission regarding the saving of Peterson Falls on the Montreal River along the Wisconsin/Michigan border. He appreciates any help with these efforts.

Steven Frank of 212 E. Oak Street expressed his dismay regarding the treatment of a volunteer who was helping with the microphone.

Jim Albert, of 133 W. Aurora Street questioned his complaint on two blight complaints filed on April 2nd. Building Inspector/Assessor Dennis Hewitt noted we currently have a new blight officer and these complaints would be forwarded on to him.

Q. Consider Closed Session to discuss the status of upcoming union negotiations and matters exempt from State Law.

Motion was made by Kasieta, seconded by Adams to enter into Closed Session at 7:39 P.M. to discuss the status of upcoming union negotiations. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

R. Return to Open Session.

Motion was made by Adams, seconded by Toth and carried to return to open session at 7:52 P.M.

S. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Adams and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 P.M.

Bruce A. Noren, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk