

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on April 28, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the City 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 Laabs, Lamb, Toth, and Mayor Noren.
 - ABSENT: Commissioner Burchell (Excused).
- C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.*
 - *1) Approval of Minutes – April 14th Regular City Commission Meeting.
 - *2) Review and Place on File:
 - a) Downtown Ironwood Development Authority Meeting Minutes of March 27th.
 - b) Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency Meeting Minutes of March 20th.
 - c) City Commission Work Session Meeting Minutes of April 9th & April 21st.
 - *3) Reschedule the Regular City Commission meeting from Monday, May 26th to Tuesday, May 27th the next day after the Memorial Day Holiday.
 - *4) Scheduling a Public Hearing for May 27, 2008, 5:15 P.M. to introduce Ordinance No. 468, Book 4 an Ordinance adopting and enacting a new Chapter to regulate sexually oriented businesses, Chapter 35, Code of Ordinances, City of Ironwood, Michigan, and providing when this ordinance shall be effective.
 - *5) Approve authorizing advertisement for demolition of structures at 305 South West Street and 1100 E. Cloverland Drive.

Motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Toth to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Mayor Noren requested if there were no objection to discuss item G. Hearing no objection the City Commission addressed Item G.

- G. Discuss and Consider approval of ballot language for the August Primary Election to renew the previous one mill for operations at the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for a period of four years from 2009-2012 inclusive.

Louise Demasi, of 400 Silver Street expressed her concerns regarding the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center usage fee for residents vs. non-resident. Ms. Demasi felt there should be a difference in the fee because the City of Ironwood users were paying taxes plus paying to use the facility.

Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board President Scott Stephens updated the City Commission regarding the Civic Center's future plans. He expressed to the City Commission the importance of the renewal of the one (1.0) mill for a period of four (4) years.

George Goerig, of 202 W. Arch Street further noted the City of Ironwood received many letters of support from the neighboring communities but no monetary support. Further comments were received.

***Motion** was made by Mayor Noren, seconded by Lamb to adopt the ballot language as amended shortening the term from four (4) to two (2) years and dedicate the revenues to payoff the existing loan first and any remaining funds to be placed in the general fund.*

ROLL CALL: Yes (2) Commissioner Lamb and Mayor Noren.
No (2) Commissioner Toth and Laabs.

***Motion** failed on a 2 to 2 vote.*

***Motion** was made by Laabs, seconded by Toth to approve the presented draft proposal for the renewal of the one Mill, (1.0) for the operation of the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for a Period of Four (4) Years from 2009-2012, inclusive.*

*After a brief discussion and with the consensuses of the City Commission **motions** to defeat the current motion on the floor and introduce a new motion took place. Both motions were taken by voice vote and passed unanimously.*

***Motion** was made by Toth, seconded by Laabs to introduce another motion to reconsider placing the renewal of the 1 mill for the purposes of retiring the debt and continue operations of the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center. Unanimously passed by voice vote.*

Mayor Noren restated the intentions of the Ironwood City Commission placing on the ballot the millage question which would raise 1 mill for four (4) years 2009-2012 with the requirement that the revenues during the four (4) years be used to retire the existing debt and the continue operations of the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

***Motion** was made by Lamb, seconded by Laabs to approve the presented draft proposal with the additional language as follows and place it on the August 5, 2008 State Primary Ballot:*

“PROPOSAL TO RENEW OR CONTINUE THE PREVIOUS ONE MILL, (1.0) 2005-2008 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PAT O'DONNELL CIVIC CENTER FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) YEARS FROM 2009-2012, INCLUSIVE:

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the City of Ironwood be increased one (1.0) mill (\$1.00-1 mill per \$1,000 for State Equalized Valuation) for a period of four (4) years, 2009-2012 inclusive, the taxes so raised to be used exclusively for the retirement of the existing debt within four (4) years and for the continued operations of the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center. (This is the millage rate that has been in effect from 2005 and represents a renewal of that millage, rather than an increase).”

ROLL CALL: Yes (3) Commissioner Toth, Laabs, and Lamb.
No (1) Mayor Noren.

***Motion** carried on a 3 to 1 vote.*

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

***Motion** was made by Laabs, seconded by Lamb, and carried to approve the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures for month ending March 2008 and to receive and place on file the Monthly Cash Report.*

E. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Laabs, supported by Lamb and carried to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Steve Frank, of 212 E. Oak Street requested to address the City Commission on Item I, along with George Goerig. Jim Albert, of 133-135 W. Aurora Street requested to address the City Commission under item L.

OLD BUSINESS

G. Discuss and Consider approval of ballot language for the August Primary Election to renew the previous one mill for operations at the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for a period of four years from 2009-2012 inclusive.

Previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Community Development Director Dan Petersen addressed the City Commission requesting the authorization to submit a Michigan Council For Arts and History Grant Application on behalf of the Ironwood Theatre at no cost to the City of Ironwood.

Motion was made by Toth, seconded by Lamb and carried to authorize the submittal of a Michigan Council for Arts and History Grant Application on behalf of the Ironwood Theatre and authorize Mayor Noren to sign same.

I. Discuss and Consider authorizing submittal of a Michigan State Housing Development Authority Grant for inclusion in the Blueprints for Michigan Downtown Program.

Community Development Director Dan Petersen and DIDA Chairman George Goerig addressed the City Commission regarding the importance of the Blueprint.

DIDA Board Member Steven Frank requested the record show the DIDA did not know it was a \$15,000 match before voting.

DIDA Board Member Louise Demasi noted the DIDA supported the pledge of \$3,750. Further comments were received.

Motion was made by Lambs, seconded by Laabs to authorize submittal of a Michigan State Housing Development Authority Grant for inclusion in the Blueprints for Michigan Downtown Program with the DIDA (Downtown Ironwood Development Authority) pledging \$3,750, along with the City of Ironwood pledging \$11,250 for a total match in the amount of \$15,000, and authorize Mayor Noren to sign same.

ROLL CALL: Yes (3) Commissioner Laabs, Lamb, and Mayor Noren.
No (1) Commissioner Toth.

Motion carried on a 3 to 1 vote.

J. Discuss and Consider authorizing advertisement for bids for grass mowing and trimming at the Riverside Cemetery.

Manager Erickson encouraged two (2) City Commissioners to sit in on the development of the grass mowing contracts.

Motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Toth and carried to authorize advertisement for bids for grass mowing and trimming at the Riverside Cemetery.

- K. Discuss and Consider authorizing advertisement for bids for grass mowing and trimming at City of Ironwood designated parks.

Motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Toth and carried to authorize advertisement for bids for grass mowing and trimming at City of Ironwood designated parks.

- L. Discuss and Consider awarding lowest bid to Ross Peterson in the amount of \$107,249.50 for the replacement of 20 Fire Hydrants.

After a brief discussion the City Commission requested additional information be provided and this item be brought back to the City Commission at a later date. They also noted specs will be made available by City Staff for review by citizens. No action was taken at this time.

M. Manager's Report

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

- *City Clerk's Office will be open Saturday, May 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for Absent Voter Ballots for the May 6th School Election.
- *Compost site is open from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday for disposal of yard waste (leaves, brush, branches).
- *Spring Clean Up is scheduled north of Ayer Street on Monday and Tuesday, May 5 & 6 and South of Ayer Street Wednesday and Thursday, May 7 & 8.
- *Budget Work Session was rescheduled from May 5th to May 13th at 5:30 p.m. and tomorrow a Budget Work Session is scheduled for Water and Sewer rates.
- *May 10th is "Make A Difference Day".
- *MDOT meeting scheduled for Alfred Wright Blvd. for Tuesday, May 6th and the power company is moving some power poles along Alfred Wright Blvd.
- *Greenbush Neighborhood Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1st at 4:00 p.m.
- *Waste Management is changing its Monday pickup to another day for residents.
- *City of Ironwood was successful in receiving a Tony Hawk Foundation Grant in the amount of \$10,000.

N. Other Matters (Five Minute Limit).

Commissioner Laabs commented on a letter addressed to Attorney Marvin Marks regarding the traffic study for the Wal Mart intersection on US2. Commissioner Laabs felt the traffic study should take place during ski season or 4th of July.

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

There were none.

P. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Toth and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 P.M.

Bruce A. Noren, Mayor

Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk