

## Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on March 10, 2008 at 5:30 P.M., in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood.

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

B. Recording of the Roll:

PRESENT: Commissioner Burchell, Laabs, Lamb, Toth and Mayor Noren.

ABSENT: None.

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.\*

\*1) Approval of Minutes – February 25<sup>th</sup> Regular City Commission Meeting.

\*2) Review and Place on File:

- a) Ironwood Carnegie Library Meeting Minutes of January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- b) Ironwood Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*3) Approve sale of:

1. Knight of Columbus “Tootsie Rolls” – March 14-16, 2008.
2. AMVETS “Green & White Clovers” – April 15 & 16, 2008.
3. American Legion Auxiliary “Poppy Days” – May 15 & 16, 2008.
4. American Legion “Miniature Flags” – June 13 & 14, 2008.

\*4) Schedule Public Hearings for April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:15 p.m. to hear comment relative to condemnation of a structure at 305 South West Street and 5:20 p.m. for a structure at 1100 E. Cloverland Drive.

\*5) Consider approval of Traffic Control Order No. 87 for One Hour Parking between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on regular business days on McLeod Avenue between Memorial Drive and Marquette Street.

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

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Mayor Bruce Noren requested to speak under Other Matters regarding Ray Maurin.

***Motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Burchell and carried to approve the Agenda as amended.***

E. PRESENTATION: Bob Tervonen, Water Utility Manager.

(RE: Year End Report).

Bob Tervonen handed out a written Year-End Report outlining the various accomplishments for the Water and Sewer Departments during 2007. A lengthy discussion revolved around the 51% water loss in the distribution system. He stated the source of the unaccountable loss can be a combination of water leaks not surfacing, water meters not operating at industry standards, and in a minor sense, theft. Commissioner Laabs believes with the City losing 54% of water (181 MG) money should be earmarked in finding these leaks. City Manager Erickson indicated that the City will be taking a very aggressive approach to finding the leaks this coming summer and will address the situation as the leaks are found. Mr. Tervonen noted that there was a 12% decrease in sales from the previous year. The reduction is a result of reduced purchase of water from the City of Hurley (Hurley has tightened up their water leaks).

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

George Goerig reserved the right to speak under Item H.

#### NEW BUSINESS

G. Discuss and Consider granting a license to Wesley Acton for the operation of a taxicab service in the City of Ironwood.

Public Safety Director Bob Erspamer informed the Commission that there is a whole section in the City Ordinance on Taxicabs. The City Commission has to approve granting the license contingent on Mr. Acton passing all the required background checks. One of the questions asked in the Ordinance is whether another taxicab service is needed. It was the consensus of the Commission that there is a need for the service.

Wesley Acton was present and noted he would have five vehicles and would be running his business out of the vehicles. The vehicles would be staged at motels or parking lots. Mr. Acton indicated that one of the reasons he wants to open up a taxicab service is due to all the complaints he has heard about the present cab service. City Attorney Dennis Cossi stated that the City Commission needs a reason not to approve the license and that the approval should be based on Mr. Acton's record and required insurance.

***Motion by Lamb, seconded by Toth. To approve Wesley Acton's request for a license to operate a taxicab service in the City of Ironwood pending a background check and making sure the City Ordinance is complied with and certified. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.***

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

George Goerig, representing the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center Board of Directors, stated that a new Manager was hired full time and he will be promoting summer activities at the Civic Center. Mr. Goerig indicated that this should be the last time a Millage would be requested. Discussion revolved around why the City of Ironwood is the only community having a Millage for the Civic Center. Mayor Bruce Noren stated that an effort should be made to go to the other communities to request support or to help contribute to the Civic Center. Mr. Goerig in good faith stated he would visit the other communities for support, but needed approval of the Millage language to meet deadlines for the upcoming ballot.

Jim Sain, the new Manager of the Civic Center, was present and stated that there is no reason why all the communities can't get involved. The Civic Center needs to be sold as a "Community Center" and the individual mind sets need to change.

Discussion revolved around if the City paid off the present loan (\$90,000) whether or not a Millage would be needed.

***Motion was made by Noren, seconded by Laabs and carried to approve the ballot language to renew the previous one mill for operations of the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center for a period of four years from 2009-2012 inclusive as presented providing that the deadline for submittal requires approval prior to the next City Commission meeting otherwise this item is to be placed back on the agenda for further review.***

I. Discuss and Consider approving a Young Citizens Scholarship award to be given to An Ironwood High School Student.

Mayor Noren indicated that recognition of young people in civic affairs was missing from scholarship awards. He would like to see the Commission stipend one month's pay and award a yearly scholarship in civic affairs.

Commissioner Lamb suggested revising the draft on the City of Ironwood Scholarship as follows:

- Consolidate first three items on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page into one question;
- On the question regarding being a member of the school senate, add how long and what office was held;
- 150 words are required on why it is important to be involved in civic affairs.

It was agreed that the scholarship would be offered to any high school student in Ironwood meeting the criteria.

***Motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Burchell and carried to prepare the proposed City of Ironwood Young Citizen Scholarship Draft with the noted changes and present to Tim Kolesar, Ironwood High School, and move forward with the one month stipend for the scholarship money.***

#### J. Mayor's Appointments.

Mayor Noren had the following appointments:

- John Lorensen to the Civic Center (term expiring October 2008);
- John Kasieta to the Planning Commission (term expiring December 31, 2008) and Sam Davey III (term expiring December 31, 2009);
- Louise Demasi to the DIDA (term expiring June 30, 2008).

***Motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Burchell and carried to approve the Mayor's appointments as noted above.***

#### K. Manager's Report.

City Manager Scott Erickson gave a verbal report on the following::

- \*An update on the summer construction projects was given i.e. Al Wright Blvd, fire hydrant replacement, pavement striping, Jessieville Engineering services contract, Greenbush Street RFP and funding alternatives for local street projects.
- \*Noted that the hiring process for the New City of Ironwood Community Development Director has been completed. Mr. Daniel Petersen will be starting on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### L. Other Matters.

Mayor Bruce Noren acknowledged the death of Ray Maurin. He was a man who deserves recognition because of his contribution and impact he gave to the Gogebic Range his entire life. Mr. Maurin was a real gentleman who gave to the community up until the time of his death.

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

Neil Corcoran expressed his displeasure of putting up a basketball hoop at the Lake and Ayer Street Playground. He believes the bigger kids playing basketball will chase away the little ones. He would like to see a pavilion and picnic table(s) placed on the concrete slab on the site. Mr. Corcoran also had safety concerns because of the additional traffic that will be generated with the proposed apartment complex on Ayer Street.

City Manager Scott Erickson stated that parents from that area have asked for a basketball hoop. The parents would self-police the area. When asked if this was brought up with the Recreation Committee, it was noted no. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to have the City Manager and Staff make a recommendation on this issue with the possibility of bringing this item to the Recreation Committee for their comments.

Jim Albert questioned where the new Community Development Director was from. He felt it was strange that the City has an Ordinance on just Taxicabs. He believes there should be a background check for all new businesses coming into town. He commended the Commissioners on approving a Young Citizen Scholarship.

N. Adjournment.

***Motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Burchell and carried to adjourn this meeting at 7:00 P.M.***

Bruce A. Noren, Mayor

Jane Bowman, Deputy Clerk