

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 14, 2021
9 AM
Minutes**

Chairman Jere Fritsche called the meeting to order at 8:57 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Jim Wester, Pete Djupe, Dennis Powell, Michael Hoinowski, Bob Byczek, Jr. and Fritsche.

Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Rachel Andreski (10:28 a.m.), Attorney Mark Tousignant and City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Bernadette Coates.

Public in attendance – Donn Atanasoff (10:06 a.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Byczek moved, with support from Powell, to approve the Agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Byczek moved, with support from Djupe, to approve the September 9, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All were in favor; Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Andreski, who had a prior meeting with MML Representatives, joined the meeting at 10:28 a.m. She reported the north half of Homer Road was receiving its top course of asphalt and the bottom portion would be complete by the October 15th deadline. The shouldering, restoration and line striping would take place later.

Andreski reported that Michigan Rural Water tried locating a water leak with their correlator and another leak was detected and repaired to a service line. They could not detect where the first leak is coming from, but thinks it may be a line from when the Nelson building was torn down.

Andreski said the City has gotten the snowplow truck back from Casper's with the new box on it and it is ready to plow snow. She said Randy Clements, the City Mechanic, is getting the rest of the fleet ready for winter. Road salt had been delivered, and ice control sand had been hauled. One winter seasonal employee will be returning to plow snow. She said the three summer seasonal employees were done on October 1st. She said advertisements are out for a full-time office person.

Andreski said the DPW had received a new chainsaw and the Vermeer woodchipper. The old chipper is currently out for sale on bids.

Andreski said she had entered into a contract with PK Contracting for striping on 4th Street, Genesee Street and symbols and striping at the bottom of Stambaugh Hill.

Andreski said there were several complaints of sewer back ups on Selden Road. A blockage was detected and Tunnel Vision was unable to get through it with their diamond cutter. After emergency excavation, the blockage was found to be a chunk of concrete that had dried and filled the pipe. Midwest Gauthier would be paving the patch in the next week.

Andreski said the DDA is considering funding the restoration to the parking lot lights behind City Hall. The previous City Manager had the meter removed when the Library did their patio project. Andreski said it has become a safety issue and lights are needed.

Andreski said the DDA also approved financing for signs through a “Way Finding System”. The ICECA have developed a County wide plan and they will also provide funding. Andreski said she is talking with UPPCO to see if signs could be placed on their power poles.

Andreski said she and Acting Chief Harrington attended a “Human Trafficking 101” seminar. She said it had opened her eyes to the trafficking and drug problem and future operations may be taking place in Iron County.

Andreski said the summer Blight Officer was done for the year on August 31st. She said the Acting Chief would be handling some unfinished citations at the Magistrate’s office. She said they would also revamp the blight ordinance to make the process easier, and work on the uniform traffic code ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Master Plan – Draft Plan Discussion -

After discussions on the draft of the City’s Master Plan, it was agreed to ask Beckett and Raeder to extend (4) Hilltop Business District (PSD) on page 82, to four blocks, from Evergreen Street to Amber Street. The Commission would like to revisit the Master Plan at the next meeting and Fritsche asked for it to be on the agenda again.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Ordinance Changes - Marihuana

Tousignant explained, City Council would be discussing a resolution at their meeting on October 20th. The resolution would determine the number and type of marihuana facilities to be in each zoning district. He said what they do, or don’t do, will impact the Commission with moving forward with a zoning ordinance amendment. Tousignant said he wanted everyone to become familiar with some of the terms and definitions of items they will have to consider. He said depending on Council’s decision, moving forward, the area the Commission will be concerned with is the Industrial, and Agriculture/Open Spaces zones and how they want to address the various types of adult marihuana retail facilities. Tousignant said it would be premature to act on this at this point, but he wanted all to become familiar with it and be ready to act in a timely manner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donn Atanasoff thanked the Commission for the work being done on Homer Road. He said that road was his favorite to ride on his bicycle. He said zoning regulations are supposed to contain reasonable requirements and asked that the Commission keep that in mind when redoing it. He said it would also help if more information and notice of what is required is written in the ordinance. Tousignant replied that is a difficult task with all the variations within zoning. He said the ordinance is easily accessible and online so anyone can read the information and decide whether that information applies to them. Tousignant then notified Atanasoff of the Council meeting that would take place on the 20th at 4:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Djupe said from what he is reading, trucks will not be available for two years and he commended Andreski for getting the new snowplow truck so soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Djupe moved with support from Wester to adjourn at 11:01 a.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.



Bernadette Coates, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer