

**CITY OF IRON RIVER  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, May 12, 2022  
9 AM  
Minutes**

Chairman Jere Fritsche called the meeting to order at 9:01 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, Jim Dellies, Bob Byczek and Fritsche.

Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Rachel Andreski.

Public in attendance – None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Djupe moved, with support from Dellies to approve the April 14, 2022, Public Hearings and Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All were in favor; Motion carried.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Andreski reported that Richardson (GEI) is still working on the design plans for the street projects. Included will be Jasper Street and Reagan Street between Jasper and Iris Streets. Bids should let in a couple of weeks.

Andreski said the corrected Master Plan copies had been received. Members can exchange their copy for the new ones.

Andreski said she had received the MEDC agreement for the RRC TA Match Grant. She will also meet with the MEDC's new representative at the MML UP Summit on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The DDA held a budget work session and Council will also be holding one. She invited Members to attend.

Andreski said the City was set for the June 4<sup>th</sup> Large Item Disposal Clean-Up Day.

Andreski said the new Blight Officer had been busy rolling through the City neighborhoods. She said a lot of the properties on the watch list had complied with the initial warning letters sent. She said Kate is going to residences, having conversations, and educating them on the process and options available to rid their property of blight. If warnings are not heeded, then tickets will be issued.

Andreski said there has been no response to her communication, so she does not have an update from WE Energies for the disc golf course parking lot.

Andreski said the DDA approved the purchase of new America Flags. They have already been placed along Washington Avenue and Genesee Street. She said they also approved the purchase of 30 hanging flower baskets that will arrive at the end of the month. The greenhouse gave 20" baskets for the price of the 16" baskets. She said the Beautification Committee has ordered perennials through the same greenhouse. They will be planted in the parking lot berms along the US2 and 4<sup>th</sup> Steet.

The Beautifiction Committee will be doing a Spring Clean Up on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The City will provide garbage bags for volunteers. She said WIC School students will also be volunteering their time.

Jack Wolford (GEI) is finishing the GIS files for the website.

West Iron County Schools was looking to construct a new administration building and are inquiring about storm water runoff. Andreski said there are new regulations, and she has contracted with GEI to review their plans. They have recently put the project on hold due to budget constraints.

Andreski met with ICECA representatives, Mark Bromley and Zach Hautala. Many topics were discussed such as City marketing, empty buildings, and business development.

Andreski said the City brush dump located in Stambaugh had been relocated to Homer Road. The Stambaugh location wasn't drying out enough from the snow dumping and the new location is much larger and will be a better fit.

Andreski said the WRI Grant had been submitted. She thanked Richardson (GEI) and Hautala (ICECA) for their participation in preparing it. She said the City should hear back from them no later than June 17<sup>th</sup>. She included in the meeting packet, a copy of the cost estimate from the grant. She said the total cost is just over \$1.8M with the City's 25% match being \$455,000. She said the grant does not include sewer but since the lines on Division Street will be exposed, they will be inspected and may be replaced at that time also.

Andreski said Stik Bilt Construction completed the restroom partition installation at Nanaimo Park. She also said all the parks, except for Ice Lake, are open for the season. She said Richardson (GEI) has volunteered his personal time to research the conversion issue so the City will once again be able to apply for DNR grants.

Andreski said the Iron County Dog Society was denied their proposal by the Parks and Recreation Committee for use of a portion of Nelson Field as a dog park.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

**Zoning Ordinance Section 151.123 – Fences, Walls and Screens**

Andreski said she has six Land Use Permits sitting on her desk for approval. One of them is for a privacy fence. The home was just purchased, and the new owner wants to replace a four-foot chain link with a six-foot board privacy fence. Fritsche suggested, they appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals to request a variance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Beckett & Raeder Inc. – Zoning Ordinance Revision Agreement**

Byczek moved with support from Djupe to accept Beckett & Raeder’s Agreement for Professional Services to Prepare a Zoning Ordinance Rewrite in the amount of \$24,500. The City’s responsibility would be \$6,125 with the balance of \$18,375 to be paid by the RRC TA Grant match.

Roll Call: Ayes – 7: Wester, Powell, Hoinowski, Dellies, Djupe, Byczek and Fritsche. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

**Capital Improvements Plan CY2023**

Andreski said for all Planning Commission Members to think of suggestions they would like to see included on the CY2023 Capital Improvements Plan. She said a lot of the upcoming items are contingent on whether or not the City receives the WRI grant. She said the paving items are small in comparison to other years due to the daily fluctuation of the petroleum prices.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Wester complained about the potholes in the City streets.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Djupe moved with support from Dellies to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.



Transcribed by:

Bernadette Coates, City Clerk