

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, July 5, 2022
9 AM
Minutes**

Mayor Dennis Powell 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 – Rodney Dood, Anthony Clements, Benjamin Garcia, Ronjo Leonoff and Powell.

Absent – None.

Also Present – City Manager Rachel Andreski, Attorney Mark Tousignant and City Clerk Bernadette Coates.

Public in Attendance – Craig Richardson, Mike Premo and Sherri Robertson (WICKWIRE PC), Jeff Bal and Mike Gatzow (GEI).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Bal said he was asked to put together a proposal. He said GEI’s Iron River office is small office but highly respected throughout their company and Iron River and Iron County is lucky to have such a company. They have a lot of import/export projects across the country with different engineers and drafters. They pride themselves with being efficient and they have brought in \$63 million in grants and loans into the community. They are willing to keep the current jobs open and will continue to be competitive.

Mike Gatzow added GEI is appreciative of the work the City has given them over the years and they are fully equipped and prepared to continue with the City.

Richardson said he had been the City’s Project Manager for the past 19 years. He has seen two company transitions and five City Managers in that time. He is offering his services for current and future projects, and he said WICKWIRE has the staff and resources to carry those forward. He said he appreciates the consideration for him to continue working with and delivering the same service to the City. He also said Iron River will continue to be his top priority.

OLD BUSINESS

Engagement of City Engineer

Powell said GEI has done a good job and he isn’t going against anything they have done but the City has always dealt with Richardson. He said he is comfortable with Richardson, and he is a resident of the City.

Leonoff agreed with Powell’s statements. He said he is comfortable with Richardson and has known him for a long time.

Andreski asked Bal if there would be one engineer dedicated to the City. Bal said if the City chose to have one engineer, GEI would provide that.

Powell asked Andreski if there were cancellation language in GEI's contract.

Andreski said in the current agreement with GEI, there is a 10-day termination clause which must be provided in writing.

Garcia said he feels similarly and having Richardson as the main contact, he sees the value in the knowhow and would like to see the City continue with Richardson.

Dood asked Bal what level of service the City would be getting charged.

Bal said although Richardson was the point person, a lot of the work was done by other staff members. Gatzow agreed with Bal and said he had even worked on City projects, but those services were never billed for. The rates are from the staff that does most of the work.

Richardson said his company is structured the same way. He said he will continue to be the project manager and young staff engineers will do the work. He said he has a lot of information about the City projects in his head and he has even worked with the DPW on nights and weekends when emergencies arise and he said that service will continue.

Leonoff moved with support from Powell to hire WICKWIRE PC for City engineering services.
Roll call: Ayes – 4: Dood, Garcia, Leonoff and Powell. Nays – 1: Clements. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Powell adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.



Bernadette Coates, City Clerk