

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 20, 2024
12:15 P.M.**

Vice Chairperson Rick Kinsey called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Roll Call: Dennis Powell, Terry Tarsi, Greg Scott, Mark Saigh, and Rick Kinsey

Absent: Jeanine Garcia, Ed Lindwall and Kelly Dvorak.

Also Present: City Manager Rachel Andreski and City Clerk Kelly Stolberg.

Public in Attendance – Craig Richardson (WICKWIRE), Zach Hautala (ICECA) and Sara Basso.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Saigh moved with support from Powell to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent – Garcia, Lindwall and Dvorak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott moved with support from Saigh to approve:

- April 15, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

All in favor; Motion carried. Absent – Garcia, Lindwall and Dvorak.

REPORTS

City Manager

- Andreski gave an update on the MDNR Ice Lake Conversion. She and Richardson met with property owners and have a tentative agreement to sell their parcel for \$20,000. City Council has agreed to purchase the property.
- The Fight the Blight was held on April 27th. They went street by street to contact residents or businesses. If there was no one at home, they left door hangers on their door regarding their blight. 114 warnings were issued.
- Spring Cleanup was on May 11th and 120 residents participated.
- Disc Golf Parking Lot Project will start after July 4th.
- Apple Blossom Boardwalk is on hold. While obtaining the EGLE permit, it was discovered we were in violation of the Conservation Easement. In the early 1990's, when the RV Park was built, the City obtained a Conservation Easement and signage needed to be installed. That didn't occur so we have since purchased signs. The DPW will be working with WICKWIRE prior to June 1st to install them.

Façade Committee

Tarsi said he spoke with the owner of KFC and he voiced his concern of the poor condition of the alley. Tarsi wondered if the City would consider splitting the cost with the DDA of repaving. Andreski said she also spoke with Mr. Flewelling and the City could cold patch the alley. Scott explained he could apply for a Façade Grant for his business. Tarsi asked will there be a paving company in the area if we were to help pave the alley. Richardson said that Bacco will be in Iron River. Scott stated that there are no alleys that are in good shape. Kinsey stated that since asphalt prices were lower this year, perhaps the council could focus on fixing alleys this year.

Scott moved with support from Tarsi to approve Mr. Flewelling's Façade Grant Application. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Saigh, Tarsi, Powell, Scott and Kinsey. Nays – 0. Absent – 3: Garcia, Lindwall and Dvorak.

Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance (ICECA)

Hautala reported the Fast Track Grants are due by June 3rd. The grant is offering \$2,500 to new businesses in Iron County.

Beautification Committee

Kinsey stated they had a successful spring clean-up on May 10th. The hanging baskets were ordered from the same place as last year. He was hopeful that the DPW would water again this year. Kinsey thanked the DPW staff for all their work keeping the baskets looking so nice.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Kinsey moved with support from Powell to approve the April 2024 DDA Financial Report. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Scott, Powell, Tarsi, Saigh and Kinsey. Nays – 0. Absent – 3: Garcia, Lindwall and Dvorak. Motion carried.

Tarsi moved with support from Scott to approve the April 2024 DDA Accounts Payable Report. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Scott, Saigh, Tarsi and Kinsey. Nays – 0. Absent – 3: Garcia, Lindwall and Dvorak. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Parking Lot Improvements Project

Saigh stated he went and looked at the Genesee Street Mall Parking Lot and thought it needed to be redone, but he is not in favor of spending money on repairing the others and to save the funds for investing in other potential properties. He added we should stripe the others and that's it. Saigh had to leave at 12:45p.m. which meant there was no quorum.

Richardson from WICKWIRE stated that the lot design has already been completed. One streetlight was not repairable. He said we need to let the contractors know what area we would like to be completed first. Tarsi suggested getting bids and then choosing what needed to be complete.

NEW BUSINESS

DDA Authority Plan Update Proposal – Miller Canfield

Richardson explained that the Parking Lot Improvement Project has not been included in the DDA plan. In order to obtain a Capital Improvement Bond, the current plan must be amended. The cost is \$4,500.

Bond Counsel Services Proposal for 2024 Capital Improvements Bond – Miller Canfield

Richardson also explained he and Andreski met with Steve Mann of Miller Canfield. The cost to perform the bonding services is \$8,500.

Iron County Watershed Coalition – River Clean-up Sponsorship

Sara Basso gave a handout on information on the Watershed Coalition River Clean-Up. She is looking for sponsorship with anticipated expenses. Powell asked if there were any grants available. Basso said they do not qualify. Kinsey stated that he is in support of this and would like to be added to the next budget and special meeting agenda.

DDA MEMBER COMMENTS

Scott recommended to Basso that the marijuana establishments should be contacted for sponsorship of the river clean up as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Kinsey adjourned the meeting at 1:13p.m.



Kelly Stolberg, City Clerk