

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
4:30 PM
Minutes**

Mayor Rodney Dood opened the Public Hearing at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Iron River City Hall.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Commercial Facilities Exemption for the Krist Oil headquarters.

M. Polley doesn't think Krist Oil should get a tax break as they are an existing company. He thinks the Council has too many connections with Krist Oil. A. Polley accused the Council of rubber stamping decision making to Krist Oil.

There being no more written or oral comments, Mayor Dood adjourned the Public Hearing at 4:34 p.m.

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
4:30 PM
Minutes**

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive public comments on the Closeout of Michigan CDBG 2022 WRI Report.

Jerry Wuorenmaa (WUPPDR) gave an update on the project and stated that the project was finished under budget.

There being no written or oral comments, Mayor Dood adjourned the Public Hearing at 4:36 p.m.

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
4:30 PM
Minutes**

Mayor Rodney Dood called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call – Donald Powell, Anthony Clements, Benjamin Garica, Ronjo Leonoff and Rodney Dood.
Absent: None.

Also, Present – City Manager Rachel Andreski, Attorney Mark Tousignant, City Clerk Kelly Stolberg, Officer Connor Kezerle, Chief Harrington, Craig Richard and Seth Miatech (WICKWIRE), Ryan Morgan, Mike Stafford, Patti Leonoff, Zach Hautala, Jerry Wuorenmaa (WUPPDR), Wendy Graham (Reporter), Vicky Powell, Garrett Bigelow, Mark and Adam Polley.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A.Polley stated that he is against standing at the podium to speak as his right with the ADA or to stand when speaking.

APPROVE AGENDA

Andreski requested an addition to New Business item h) Sale of City Property. Leonoff moved with support from Garcia to approve the agenda with changes. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to approve:

- January 30, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
- February 21, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

All were in favor; Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clements moved with support from Powell to receive and file the Consent Agenda items which include the following:

- January 16, 2024, DDA Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 20, 2024, DDA Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 10, 2024, Parks & Recreation, Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 8, 2024, Planning Commission, Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 5, 2025, Election Committee, Regular Meeting Minutes
- DPW Report

All were in favor; Motion carried.

REPORTS

IRPD Report

Chief Harrington did not have any items to report. Asked for any public concerns to which there were none. Clements moved to accept the IRPD Report with Leonoff supporting. All were in favor; Motion carried.

ICECA February Report

Hautala presented the new 2024 Iron River County Visitor Guide. He stated that there are plenty of copies at the Chamber and that they will be distributed throughout Iron County and around the UP and Northern Wisconsin. He also stated that the Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan program has a 0% first year loan available to business owners.

Garcia moved with support from Clements to accept the ICECA February Report. All in favor; Motion carried.

County of Iron Report

Representative Mike Stafford gave an update on the February election. He stated it cost approximately \$24,000 and that there were 241 early voters. He also stated that the County Clerk had applied for reimbursement of \$21,462.00. County Clerk estimates the next 2 elections will cost

upward of \$59,000. Clements moved with support from Garcia to accept the County of Iron's Report. All in favor; Motion carried.

Attorney Report

Tousignant explained his invoice of the items he has been working on. He also explained what was able to be done on our roads and sidewalks regarding bonding. He also stated that he has been working with the Steering Committee on zoning in the city. Clements moved with support from Powell to accept the Attorney Report as presented. All in favor; motion carried.

Managers' Report

Andreski thanked Wuorenmaa (WUPPDR) for attending our public hearing and explained he was our grant administrator on this project. She also thanked Richardson & Miatech from WICKWIRE for their work in keeping us under budget and saving the taxpayers money with FA Industrial being the lowest bidder.

- Disc Golf Course Parking lot: Andreski said we have been working with We Energies to obtain this property since 2014. This project bid was granted to FA Industrial for just under \$100,000. She also stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee has agreed to pay for half of the project. Dood recommended that there be a ribbon cutting when the project is completed.
- "Green House" by McDonald's has been demolished and thanked the Fritz Family for making this happen.
- Andreski stated she was contacted by the corporate office for Auto Value on purchasing the property/lot on US-2/M-189 to expand their business parking lot.
- A new business is coming soon called The Sweet Fire Tobacco Company on Genesee Street in the former Hoop's Barber Shop. Andreski is working with them on getting a permit for a sign.
- Andreski reported with help from Officer Wickland that a grant from Enbridge Fueling Futures was successful in the amount of \$5,000 and will be put towards the purchase of new radios.
- Andreski said she was still compiling the expenses of what it cost the city for elections. She stated we had 74 early voters and on Election Day they had 528 voters.
- Reported that the KFC building is sold, and the owner is going to reopen it as a KFC. We are just waiting to get paperwork from their corporate office.
- The former Newby building was sold to a company called Team Clean which is a commercial cleaning business.

Clements moved with support from Leonoff to accept the City Manager's Report. All in favor; motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

City Financial Report – February 2024

Leonoff moved with support from Powell to accept the City Financial Report for February 2024. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Powell, Garcia, Leonoff and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable Report – February 2024

Leonoff moved with support from Clements to accept the Accounts Payable Report for February 2024. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Clements, Garcia, Leonoff and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

City Attorney Invoice – February

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to accept the Attorney Invoice for February in the amount of \$2301.25. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Leonoff, Clements, Garcia, and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commercial Facilities Exemption Request and Resolution No. 24-02 / Krist Oil Company

Andreski explained what the tax-exempt program means and recommended giving Krist Oil a 12-year exemption on their new building. Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to approve Krist Oil's request for exemption. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Leonoff, Clements, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 24-02

Garcia moved with support from Powell to approve Resolution No. 24-02. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Garcia, Powell, Leonoff and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Westphal's Quick Claim Deed

Tousignant explained Westphal's request of getting a Quick Claim Deed for their driveway they are using. His recommendation is to approve the Deed as they are good businessmen in our community. Clements moved with support from Powell to approve the Quick Claim Deed. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Garcia, Clements, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Iron River City Hall Evaluation

Andreski stated that WICKWIRE completed the final engineering report cost analysis of City Hall and recommends having a special meeting workshop to allow the Council to go through the report. March 26th at 10:00a.m. meeting scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Street Improvements Project-Recommendation for Bid Award

Andreski explained that she and Richardson have added a few alleys to have work completed. Bacco Construction was the lowest bid that was submitted. Their bid is under budget by approximately \$200,000 and will be redoing approximately 2 miles of work. Clements moved with support from Leonoff to accept the Bacco Construction bid. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Garcia, Leonoff, Clements and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

2024 Street Improvement Project – Construction Services

Andreski stated we are thankful for WICKWIRE to be in the field over seeing our projects and we are lucky to have them. Clements moved with support from Leonoff to accept WICKWIRES' Proposal for Professional Engineering Services. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Garcia, Leonoff, Clements and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

2024 N. 5th Ave Storm Sewer Project – Recommendation for Bid Award

Andreski updated the water issue and some sump pumps going into the river. Three bids were received, and the lowest bid was from FA Industrial. She also stated that the Sewing Authority has some extra funds that will help with funding. She recommended we move forward with this project. Powell moved with support from Leonoff to have FA Industrial do the Storm Sewer Project. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Garcia, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Motion carried.

2024 N. 5th Ave Storm Sewer Project – Construction Services – Proposal WICKWIRE

Powell moved with support from Leonoff to approve the WICKWIRE Proposal. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Garcia, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

John Deere Riding Lawn Mower Purchase

Dood stated from the DPW report that we currently have 2 mowers that are over 11 years old and the other 2 are over 6 years old. The Parks and Recreation Committee has agreed to purchase one. Since it is not a budgeted item, funding will have to come out of the Motor Pool Fund. There were 3 bids and the lowest was John Deere. Powell moved with support from Leonoff to approve the purchase of the John Deere mower of \$10,865.00 with funds to come out of the Motor Pool Fund. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Garcia, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Nays -0. Motion carried.

The Fire Station Marijuana License Renewal

Andreski proved the Fire Station’s Community Outreach Summary of agencies they have financially supported with none that include Iron River City, but 8 county organizations and 1 Gogebic organization. Powell moved with support from Leonoff to renew The Fire Station Marijuana License of \$5,000. Roll call: Ayes – 4: Clements, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Nays – 1: Garcia. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 24-03 MDOT Local Bridge Program W Genesee

Leonoff moved with support from Garcia to accept and sign Resolution No. 24-03 MDOT Local Bridge Program. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Clements, Garcia, Leonoff and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Sale of City Property

Andreski gave a handout of city property on West Monroe that is an undeveloped area that was not on the property sale list. The neighboring Kurtz’s submitted an offer of \$1,400 to purchase both lots that are 60’ X 120’. The assessor assessed the parcels for \$2,000 each. They may put up a pole barn at the property. Clements asked if we have any use for the property. Leonoff said we should make a counteroffer of \$3,000, and Garcia said to counter at \$3,200. Dood said to counter \$1,500. They had recently purchased lots 1 – 11 at \$600 each. Tousignant said that the buyer is to pay all the expenses and that there would only need to be one Deed. Andreski said the other neighbor had contacted her and offered to pay \$500 per lot a few months ago. Andreski offered to counter, and he declined. Garcia moved to counter with \$3,000 with support from Leonoff. Ayes – 4: Powell, Clements, Garcia and Leonoff. Nays – 1: Dood. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

M. Polley provided his statement of speaking his mind on Westphal’s and Krist Oil.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMETS

Dood went on record stating that he has no affiliation with Krist Oil.

ADJOURNMENT

Dood moved with support from Leonoff to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. All in favor; Motion carried.



Kelly Stolberg, City Clerk