

IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
4:30 PM
Minutes

Mayor Rodney Dood called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call – Anthony Clements, Benjamin Garica, Ronjo Leonoff and Rodney Dood.

Absent – Dennis Powell.

Also, Present – City Manager Rachel Andreski, City Clerk Kelly Stolberg, Seth Miatech (WICKWIRE) and Ryan Morgan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Goals and Priorities for 2024

Andreski's recommendation was to pick 3 to 5 ideas to be completed off the lists turned in by City Council members. Garcia suggests there be a priority list of alleys made with the worst condition to be completed first. Garcia also wondered if there were any alleys that could be abandoned. He suggested the PD and DPW could write down what alleys are in desperate need of repair when they are out doing their daily duties. Dood would like to see the alleys put in the top 5 priorities of completion and perhaps put money aside every year to redo all of them. Clements suggested asking for a mileage to help with repaving costs. Garcia also wondered if the business owners should be required to take care of their own sidewalks.

Dood recommended checking into getting a nuisance deer hunt organized.

Leonoff suggested Andreski go through the alley inventory lists and see what she thinks is obtainable to get done with the minimal DPW staff that we have.

2023 Accomplishments

Andreski provided a hand-out of the update of 2023 accomplishments.

Blight Ordinance

Andreski said we have been successful thus far.

Marijuana

Andreski pointed out the local marijuana stores were on board to give back to the City during the application process. Now we don't hear back from them after their license was given. Garcia suggested that prior to renewing their license, that we get some kind commitment that they are committed to giving back to the City.

Leonoff inquired about using marijuana monies to update the City Hall.

Parks

Garcia would like to see the elimination of parks.

Andreski reported one City Park was sold this year. If there are any future sales of parks she recommends contacting the park named family, if still in our community to give them first chance of purchasing the property.

Garcia would also like to consolidate parks, and perhaps open a new park off Genesee Street next to River North if an opportunity arises.

FEMA

Andreski gave an update that FEMA is not going to fund the State of Emergency from the Spring Flooding. The State of Michigan Emergency money was of \$250,000 allocated, but not yet funded. She also stated that the Road Commissions are seeking their own funds. The MSP, Emergency Management and Homeland Security is seeking requests from communities to apply for a 1% loan to implement hazard mitigation. FEMA funds the program so we have until April 12th to respond. Andreski added the max request is \$5M with up to a 30-year repayment time period for low income areas. She added that WICKWIRE has been hired to assist with the application.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Garcia suggested creating a new auxiliary position to help with duties of the zoning administrator, blight, chicken permits/inspecting and any future apartment rentals.

Andreski updated that the Planning Commission is working on improvement projects.

Garcia suggested painting parking lines on Genesee Street so that perhaps more cars will be able to park on the main street.

Garcia is wondering how we could attract more commercially developable businesses to come here.

Andreski stated she was approached about perhaps putting up some kind of housing whether it be a hotel, apartment building or condos.


Andreski noted that the WICKWIRE repair proposal is almost completed. She is thinking that the work will need to be completed in phases if we were to stay in the City Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

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



Kelly Stolberg, City Clerk