

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
4:30 PM  
Minutes**

Mayor Rodney Dood called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Powell, Clements, Garcia, Leonoff and Dood.

Also, present: City Manager Rachel Andreski, City Clerk Tyana Elenbaas, Interim City Attorney Hannah L. Goodman and Officer Caleb Greenough.

Public in attendance: Mark and Adam Polley, Vicky Powell, Zach Elenbaas, Mike Stafford, Joseph Mowery, Josh and Nicole Desentz and Wendy Graham (IC Reporter).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Andreski requested an addition to new Business:

- Item G) Winter Plow Blade Quote

Powell moved with support from Clements to approve the agenda with the change. All in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to approve:

- October 16, 2024, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes

All were in favor. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- October 21, 2024, DDA Regular Meeting Minutes
- October 28, 2024, DDA Special Meeting Minutes

All were in favor. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

**IRPD Report**

Leonoff motioned with support from Clements to accept the IRPD Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

**DPW Report**

Leonoff motioned with the support of Clements to accept the DPW Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ICECA October Report**

Hautala was unable to make it to the meeting and his October report was submitted after printing the City Council agenda. It will be included in the next meeting's agenda.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### **County of Iron**

Mike Stafford reported that his term will come to an end November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The position will be posted for interested candidates, who will be appointed January 2025. Interested candidates may write a letter of interest to be considered.

Leonoff motioned with support from Powell to accept the County of Iron report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Attorney's Report**

- Goodman updated Council on the Generator, stating that she has spoken with Attorney Tinti regarding ownership of the generator. She is currently waiting on a letter from Mr. Tinti stating that the County has no interest in the generator. This is pending any documentation that could prove ownership is split between the City and the County.
- Goodman detailed her involvement with Blight proceedings, stating that she doesn't recommend pursuing the claim on Gale Dix. She noted that Ms. Dix isn't the owner of the property and the person on the title is not the person who committed the blight. She also spoke as to the whereabouts of Ms. Dix, stating that she fled Iron River after Judge Powell issued a bench warrant. She explained that it would not be fiscally wise to pursue this claim. She stated that it is her opinion that the County cleans up the blight and the City doesn't pursue it.

Clements motioned with support from Powell to accept the Attorney's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Manager's Report**

- Andreski updated Council the on new City Hall, stating that the roof is ready to be installed. Due to the weather though, the work has not started. The air conditioning units have been removed from the roof, so now we are waiting for better conditions to allow the workers to begin. She also noted that we are waiting on Adam from the Lyons Group to finish plans, then we can send it out to bids. She noted that asbestos and lead paint inspections will need to take place to make sure the building is up to code.
- Andreski detailed the Northern Getaway being sold and how she began working with the new owner. She has put the new owner in touch with local artists for a mural the owner would like to commission. Andreski has also been educating the owner on possible grants she could apply for, like our Façade Grant.
- Andreski updated Council on the Presidential Election, she detailed how we had tried an Absentee Voter Board, which tallied all the mail in ballots separately, noting how much simpler it made the process and alleviated some of the stress on the election workers. She touched on the percentage of voters for each precinct in our City, with Precinct 1 having a 58.84% and Precinct 2 having a 53.55% voter turnout rate. The County total was 64.07% turnout rate.
- Andreski noted that we are having the meeting early because she would humbly like to request her annual time off.
- Andreski updated the Council on the Apple Blossom Trail. Work will begin in 2025, both grants we received to help with costs are reimbursements, so the work will need to be completed first. She feels confident that this project can go out for bids at the beginning of the year and then by spring hopefully the reconstruction may begin.

- Andreski sent out an email detailing the purchase of the new to us John Deere Grader. It was in better condition than originally thought. She thanked Council for approving the purchase.

Garcia moved with support from Clements to accept the City Manager's Report and her request for her annual vacation time.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Windsor Center/ Joint Public Building Report Minutes**

Clements moved with support from Powell to accept the Windsor Center/Joint Public Building Report minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **City Financial Report – October 2024**

Leonoff moved with support from Garcia to accept the City Financial Report for August 2024 as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes- 5: Clements, Garcia, Powell, Leonoff and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

### **Accounts Payable Report – October 2024**

Powell moved with the support from Leonoff to accept the Accounts Payable Report for October 2024 as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Garcia, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

### **City Attorney Invoice – October 2024**

Ms. Goodman stated that she would feel more comfortable retaining her bill for another month until she can complete some of the tasks that we will be billed for.

Dood motioned with support from Powell to table the attorney invoice until next month. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Generator – Global Response North Building**

The City has secured the generator and we are currently waiting on Attorney Tinti to write a letter stating that the County has no interest in the generator. Currently, Goodman and Tinti are still reviewing files pertaining to the generator. Ms. Goodman stated that we could move forward with the sale of the generator. Andreski stated that she is waiting to collect an estimate on a potential sale price and there are a few parties that would be interested in the unit.

Garcia motioned with support from Clements to table the sell of the generator until Andreski has time to research a price point. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Proposal for Repurpose of Existing City Hall**

Dood motioned with the support of Clements to table the repurpose of City Hall due to no further updates.

### **2006 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper**

Under the direction of the Council, Andreski had put this piece of equipment on the Wisconsin Surplus Auction website, with a beginning bid of \$1,300. Unfortunately, there are currently no bids for the Sweeper. Andreski asked how Council would like to proceed, if the Sweeper did not meet

the minimum price point Council had dictated. After some discussion, it was decided that if the minimum price point was not met on the auction site, the sweeper would be scrapped. Dood motioned with support from Clements to allow the sweeper to be scrapped if the minimum price point was not bid on the auction site. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Used Car Sale**

Andreski stated that we did not receive any bids for the Charger yet, which was set at \$8,000. Andreski posed the same question to the Council, regarding a minimum sale price for this Charger. The Council had mixed feelings regarding a minimum price that they were willing to accept, but after some discussion it was decided that half of the bid price would be acceptable. Dood reiterated that this vehicle is a “lemon” and that it would be best to just get rid of it as soon as possible. Garcia motioned with the support of Leonoff to accept \$4,000 for the Charger as the absolute minimum bid. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **SCADA System Upgrades Quote – Energenecs**

Andreski detailed how we have experience issues with the software on the SCADA System. With the power outage we had earlier this week, the SCADA deleted programming which needed to be reinstalled by the representative from Energenecs. The cost of the representative servicing the SCADA system is a travel fee of \$258 plus an hourly rate of \$145. Andreski stated that the SCADA system has had to be reprogrammed twice this month due to the outages, but there is an “Eeproms” which is a back-up of the programming software available. She detailed how the “eeproms” could eliminate unexpected costs due to power outages and having a technician come out and service the SCADA.

Clements motioned with the support of Leonoff to purchase the eeproms for each of the well house and lift station locations in the amount of \$5,841.66 from the Water and Sewage fund balance. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Garcia, Leonoff, Clements and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

#### **DDA Parking Lot Reconstruction Project – Cost Sharing**

Andreski updated the Council on the DDA Parking Lot Project, noting how the DDA has decided to cover most of the parking lots and would like to ask Council if they would be willing to offset some of the cost by using some of the street project funds. The Council discussed which parking lots and alleys the DDA is covering and decided that there are funds that could be allocated to this project. With the understanding that doing these street improvements at the same time will save on mobilization costs.

Powell motioned with the support of Leonoff to give \$100,000 from the 2025 Street Project Fund to help with alternates two and four in the Parking Lot Reconstruction.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Garcia, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

#### **Resolution No 24-09**

Andreski stated that the City has met with the representatives of “The Pool,” who gave a clear explanation of how The Pool works and what the costs would be for health and dental coverage. All of the employees seem satisfied with changing plans, considering the plan is basically the same but at a cheaper cost to the City and the employees. Other municipalities have also moved to The Pool and are satisfied with the coverage.

Clements motioned with the support of Garcia to sign the 3-year contract resolution for West Michigan Health Insurance Pool. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **2024 Winter Noxious Weeds**

Garcia motioned with support from Clements to move to transfer the noxious weed debt to the winter tax roll and order the accounts paid from the General Fund.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Leonoff, Clements, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried

### **Appointment – Compensation Commission**

Dood motioned with support from Powell to approve Lorena Smith’s appointment to the Compensation Commission for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2028. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Officer Sponsorship – Police Cadet**

Andreski updated the Council on the potential candidate her and Chief Harrington have been in contact with. He is a younger gentleman, who has deep roots in Iron River. He has passed the written MCOLES test and has agreed to attend Kirtland Regional Police Academy in Lower Michigan. She asked Council if they would like for her to pursue the same grant that she had obtained with past officers. The maximum grant award is \$20,000.

Garcia motioned with the support from Leonoff to sponsor the police cadet and sign the “Police Academy Reimbursement Agreement.”

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Clements, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried

### **Winter Plow Blade Quote**

Andreski stated that we need to buy blades for the plows and with this purchase, it would allow us to have extra blades in our inventory. She noted that each truck has two blades, and we did have some left over from last year but having extras would be beneficial once the snow flies.

Garcia motioned with support from Leonoff to purchase the winter plow blades.

Roll call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Clements, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Polley alleged that the City is breaking laws, due to denying FOIAs. He asked the Council to reconsider putting City Hall on the ballot for the citizens to vote on the move. He also alleged that City employees are leaving due to Andreski and Harrington’s leadership.

Adam Polley began by stating that he obtained a file on Chief Harrington from the Michigan State Police and in these files, it raises concerns about the qualifications of the Chief. He said the City and its’ citizens have been lied to and due diligence was not done when the Chief was hired. He alleges that the Chief is not qualified for police work. He believes that the police department is harassing him and his family and firmly stated that it will not be tolerated. He then shifted to J. Andreski, stating that having Mr. Andreski as the temporary foreman is against our local Charter. He alleges that Mr. Andreski is “useless” and overpaid. He believes the money spent on keeping Mr. Andreski employed should be dispersed to the other DPW workers to raise their wages.

Nicole Desentz asked the Council if the City had asked The Fire Station to remove their flag on Veterans Day. She had been told that the City had told The Fire Station to remove it because it was against an ordinance. She further stated that she tried to look for said ordinance and could not locate it. The Council and Andreski stated that they had no recollection of this event, and furthermore would not have asked The Fire Station to remove a flag because the City supports its veterans.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Garcia motioned with support from Leonoff to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

  
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Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk