

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
4:30 PM
Minutes**

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

Roll Call: Dennis Powell, Anthony Clements, Benjamin Garcia, Ronjo 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: Chris Stebbins, Mark Polley, Adam Polley, Mike Gramman, Jessica and Doug Taylor, Patti Leonoff, Vicky Powell, Logan Schmutzler (WICKWIRE,) Zach Hautala and Brett Smithson (ICECA,) Scott Sternhagen (CLA Connect,) and Wendy Graham (Iron County Reporter).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Scott Sternhagen of Clifton Larson Allen thanked Andreski for allowing him to attend the meeting. He highlighted several audit items under the Executive Summary. He explained that a lot of the information contained in the summary is required communication. He feels the City is in a good financial position. He noted that this is the City's first Federal single audit, which was required after the City was awarded the WRI Grant. He stated that is nearly impossible to have a perfect federal audit because CLA will go through all records with a "fine tooth comb" and find any discrepancies. He was happy to report that there were no concerns. He gave thanks to Amanda and Wanda for their exceptional record keeping.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leonoff moved with support from Garcia to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Garcia moved with support from Clements to approve:

- December 18, 2024, 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:

- IRPD Report
- DPW Report

All were in favor; Motion carried.

REPORTS:

ICECA December Report

- Fast Track Grant – Hautala stated that the ICECA is having great success with the Fast Track Grant. This round, there were 5 businesses awarded the grant, and they represented 4 different municipalities. He stated that 100% of the businesses that were awarded the grant are still operational.
- Shop Iron County Facebook Campaign – Hautala noted that this Campaign continues to be successful with an increase in generated clicks. Hautala noted that the campaign reached around 25,870 people from the surrounding area. There was a 110% increase from 2022 to 2024, with around 61% of those clicks being from women.
- Business After Hours – Hautala detailed the Business After Hours of 2024, noting Edward Jones, The Rose Quartz Cottage, The Iron County Museum and Dina Mia Kitchen’s sponsored the BAH with Main Street Café catering the event. He informed Council that there will be another BAH scheduled in February, which will be sponsored by WICKWIRE. He encouraged Iron County representatives to attend.

Garcia motioned with the support from Leonoff to accept the ICECA report. All in favor: Motion carried.

County of Iron

Nothing to Report.

Attorney’s Report

- Goodman explained that she is working with Andreski and Harrington on Blight. They have had some success and will continue to pursue those who are in violation.

Manager’s Report

- New City Hall - Andreski updated the Council on the new City Hall, stating that the bids were advertised on January 8, 2025. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting on January 22, 2025, for interested parties. Bid Opening is set for February 12, 2025, at 10 a.m. Bid Award consideration will be at the City Council’s February 19, 2025, meeting.
- Apple Blossom Trail – Andreski stated that we have moved forward with the bidding process for the trail. Advertisements went out January 8, 2025, and bid opening will be on February 12, 2025, and bid award consideration will be at the City Council’s February 19, 2025, meeting.
- City Council Work Session – Andreski stated that she would like to set up a workshop with the Council and Interim City Attorney Goodman. After some discussion, it was decided that the work session will be scheduled for February 11, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

Garcia moved with support from Clements to accept the Manager’s Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Windsor Center/ Joint Public Building Report Minutes

Nothing to report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

City Financial Report – December 2024

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

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

Accounts Payable Report – December 2024

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

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

City Attorney Invoice – December 2024

Powell moved with support from Clements to pay the December Attorney invoice in the total amount of \$1,305.00. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Garcia, Leonoff, Clements, Powell and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Generator – Global Response North Building

Andreski explained that she had presented West Iron Public School with Council’s proposal to purchase the generator for \$50,000, to which they declined. She explained that we have run into an issue regarding the transfer switch for the generator. It is located indoors and has had no luck gaining access into the former Global Response North Building to allow the disconnect of the transfer switch. She noted that she had been in contact with Kevin Drier (Drier Electric), and he wouldn’t be able to assist us in disconnecting the transfer switch so we would need to solicit bids. Then we can put it out for auction.

Garcia motioned with the support of Leonoff to table the generator. All in favor; motion carried.

Proposal for Repurpose of Existing City Hall

Garcia motioned with support from Clements to table the proposal for repurpose of the existing City Hall. All in favor; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve FY24 Audit by CLA Connect

Garcia gave thanks to the ladies in the office for maintaining good records. Garcia motioned with support from Leonoff to approve the FY24 Audit by CLA Connect. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Clements, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Iron County Central Dispatch Advisory Board

Dood motioned with support from Garcia to nominate Clements for the Iron County Central Dispatch Advisory Board. Clements accepted the nomination.

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

Appoint Deputy Mayor

Dood motioned with support from Clements to appoint Leonoff to Deputy Mayor. Leonoff accepted the nomination. Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Powell, Garcia, Clements and Dood. Abstained – 1: Leonoff. Motion carried.

Appoint Council Representative to Windsor Recreation Authority/Joint Public Building

Dood motioned with support from Powell to appoint Leonoff to the Windsor Recreation Authority. Leonoff accepted the nomination. Roll Call: Ayes – 3: Clements, Powell and Dood. Nays – 1: Garcia. Abstained – 1: Leonoff. Motion carried.

Appoint Council Representative to The Nelson Field Park Committee

Andreski recommended forming a committee to negotiate our contract with the WICPS for the use of Nelson Field and Bachman Park. Dood requested to be part of this committee considering he doesn’t have a conflict of interest, like Clements or Leonoff. Dood motioned with the support of

Powell to be appointed to the Nelson Field Park Committee. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Garcia, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Set CY2025 Meeting Schedule

After some discussion, the Council made the decision that having the meetings later would allow more citizens to attend. Clements motioned with the support from Garcia to move the meeting times to 5:15 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Leonoff, Garcia, Clements and Dood. Nays- 0. Motion carried.

Reaffirm Depositories for City Funds

Clements motioned with support from Garcia to reaffirm depositories for City Funds. All in favor; motion carried.

City Council- Goals and Priorities/ 2024 Accomplishments

Andreski suggested that the Council narrow down the suggestions to a top 3 to 5 items. After some discussion, it was decided that: alleys, housing, filling the DPW opening, and hiring a Zoning administrator appeared on all lists and should be treated as priorities.

Garcia noted that the alleys are currently being looked at by the Planning Commission and some of the alleys in the DDA district were included in the DDA's parking lot project.

These goals and priorities may be revisited as necessary.

Brownfield Authority Appointment

Dood motioned with the support of Powell to appoint Craig Richardson to the Brownfield Authority for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2027. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Leonoff, Garcia, Powell and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

DDA Appointment

Andreski explained Terry Tarsi had been representing a business seat but has since sold his business and would like to be appointed to the resident seat. Garcia motioned with support from Leonoff to appoint Tarsi to the residential seat on the DDA. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Clements, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion carried.

City Deer Hunt

Garcia stated that there has been interest in the City for a City wide deer hunt. He suggested that a committee be formed to compile information regarding other municipalities and their ordinances. Andreski, Garcia and John Kolbas were selected for the committee and will compile information to present to the Council.

Executive Session:

City Manager Evaluation (Closed Session):

Clements moved with support from Leonoff to enter Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussions with the City Manager for her yearly evaluation.

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

The Regular Meeting resumed at 5:40 p.m.

Roll call – Powell, Clements, Garcia, Leonoff and Dood.

Also Present – Rachel Andreski, City Manager and Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk.

Public in Attendance – Vicky Powell, Mark Polley, Doug Taylor, Jessica Taylor and Officer Caleb Greenough.

Dood moved with support from Garcia to amend Andreski’s contract to reflect a 3% wage increase. Roll call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Clements, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0: Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Taylor stated that he is going to sue the City for defamation because he was told that members of the Council were referring to him as a “Drug Dealer” and “Wife Beater.” He stated that he doesn’t do drugs and has helped others get off drugs. He also noted that he and his wife have been happily married for thirty years. He promised the Council that he would be pressing defamation charges, and he will not go away.

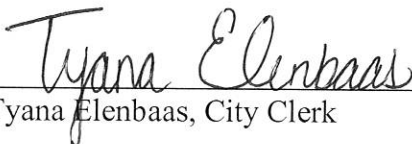
Mark Polley accused Jeff Andreski of not buying locally, stating that he did not buy his personal truck locally. He mentioned that he attended the County Board Meeting, and he was in awe of the professionalism their council obtained. He explained that all the Council members were dressed up and conducted themselves in a professional manner. He also expressed concerns over Chief Harrington. That he had his MCOLES certification revoked and is operating without one. He asked Council if they were aware that Chief Harrington had his certificate revoked.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Dood stated that he hadn’t heard the rumor about Chief Harrington and doesn’t believe there is any truth to the gossip.

ADJOURNMENT

Garcia motioned with support from Powell to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.



Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk