

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 20, 2025
12:15 P.M.**

Terry Tarsi called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Roll Call: Aimee Shimanski, Ed Lindwall, Mark Saigh, Greg Scott and Tarsi.

Absent: Dennis Powell and Kelly Dvorak.

Also Present: City Manager Rachel Andreski and City Clerk Tyana Elenbaas.

Public in Attendance – Zach Hautala (ICECA).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Saigh moved with support from Scott to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried. Absent: 2 – Powell and Dvorak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott moved with support from Saigh to approve the December 16, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Powell and Dvorak.

REPORTS

City Manager

- Vacancies – Andreski began by welcoming Aimee Shimanski (My Friend’s Salon) to the DDA. She noted that Mr. Tarsi was recently approved by the City Council to serve as a resident. With that, it still leaves two vacancies for those who are interested.
- Streetlights – At the last meeting, it was noted that not all the Christmas lights and light poles were in working order. Since then, Drier Electric has been working with the DPW to fix the decorations and the light pole. Some required a new junction box, others needed new breakers. At this time all the lights are working, except for one, which will require more investigation to repair or replace.
- Parking Lot Project – We are still in the 45-day waiting period, but once that time has expired, Miller- Canfield will continue with the bonding process and the project will be moving forward.

Façade Committee

Andreski stated that there have been two inquiries regarding the Façade Grant, and she has been working with both to see if they are qualified.

Scott inquired about the Corner Drug Store and if they still planned on fixing the façade on the front of the building.

Andreski explained that the owners were trying to get the façade started and finished before winter and unfortunately had run out of time. She believes that the work will begin once the weather allows.

Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance (ICECA)

- Fast Track Grant – Hautala noted that this grant has been modified so now it is accessible to any business that has opened within the last 365 days. He stated that this round there were 5 applicants, and all 5 were awarded money.
- Visitor Guide – Hautala noted that these will be arriving within the next couple of weeks and will be dispersed sooner than last year. 5 Star Marketing will help distribute the guides in other areas of interest.
- Facebook Campaign – Hautala noted that this campaign continues to be successful with a 110% increase in interactions from 2022 to 2024. These ads are helping to bring people to the Iron County area for shopping.
- Business After Hours – Hautala noted that the BAH held in December was a success and WICKWIRE has agreed to sponsor the next one at the end of February with the help of Cathy Peruzzi- Richardson of Thrivent.

Beautification Committee

Nothing to report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Lindwall moved with support from Scott to approve the December 2024 Financial Report as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Shimanski, Saigh, Scott, Lindwall and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Absent: 2 – Powell and Dvorak. Motion carried.

Lindwall moved with support from Scott to approve the December 2024 Accounts Payable Report as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes - 5: Shimanski, Saigh, Scott, Lindwall and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Absent: 2 – Powell and Dvorak. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Tarsi nominated Dvorak as Chairperson with the support of Lindwall. The Authority is hopeful that Dvorak will accept the nomination at the next meeting in February.

Tarsi nominated Scott as Vice Chairperson. Lindwall supported the nomination and Scott accepted. Roll Call: Ayes-5: Shimanski, Saigh, Scott, Lindwall and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Absent: Powell and Dvorak. Motion carried.

2024 Meeting Schedule

Andreski explained that the schedule mirrors last year's at 12:15 p.m. with no meetings in July and November. The only proposed change is instead of changing the meeting dates that fell on Federal holidays to the following Tuesday, they will remain on the scheduled date. Tarsi moved with support from Saigh to approve the meeting schedule as presented. All in favor; motion carried. Absent: Powell and Dvorak.

Beautification Committee Vacancy

Andreski explained that the Beautification Committee no longer has a DDA representative since Kinsey resigned from the Authority. She asked members if they would be interested in appointing someone to serve on the Beautification Committee.

Tarsi explained that a representative should be appointed because the DDA often sponsors the Beautification Committee in their projects. Shimanski stated that she would be willing to serve on the Committee but would need to get with the other members of the Committee to decide on a better time to meet.

After some discussion it was determined that Ms. Shimanski will serve on the Beautification Committee. All in favor; motion carried. Absent: Powell and Dvorak.

Christmas Lights Committee Vacancy

Andreski explained that the DDA had recently formed a committee to discuss the Christmas lights and decorations. She noted that Jeanine Garcia and Rick Kinsey were on the Committee, but since they had both resigned, she would like to know if the DDA would like to appoint new members.

Scott noted that he too, is on the committee, and he believes that adding more members is unnecessary. He felt confident that Andreski and himself could narrow down some of the different options and present them to the Authority at a later meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DDA MEMBER COMMENTS

- Tarsi asked when the DDA's fiscal year is finished. Andreski explained that the new fiscal year starts July 1. Tarsi expressed concerns over the money the DDA has spent considering we are only halfway through the fiscal year.
- Tarsi asked about the snowmobile trail conditions and if others have been asking about that kind of recreation in the area. Saigh, who is a member of the Sno-Kat Trail Club, noted that the groomers have been out and are working. The trails are not terrible, but there are other areas that have more snow and better trail conditions than we do. He suggested that snowmobilers are going elsewhere with better snow conditions and better trails.
- Tarsi would also like to know if the rumor he heard about Kwik Trip buying the lot by Stateline was factual. Andreski stated that she has not been contacted by anyone regarding that section of land, and she would be willing to work with any company who would be willing to invest in our area. Hautala noted that Kwik Trip has been picking areas to put their gas stations and unfortunately, it doesn't look like Iron River meets the criteria they are using.
- Tarsi would like to know if the County Club had sold or if that too was a rumor. Lindwall confirmed that the County Club had been sold and the owner plans on renovating the business and opening it up year-round.

ADJOURNMENT

Scott moved with support from Saigh to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 p.m. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Powell and Dvorak.



Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk