

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
5:15 PM
Minutes**

Mayor Rodney Dood opened the Public Hearing at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall.

Roll Call: Dennis Powell, Anthony Clements, Benjamin Garcia, Ronjo Leonoff and Dood.
Absent: None.

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

Public in attendance: Vicky Powell, Timmothy Ballinger, Mark Polley, Adam Polley, Patti Leonoff, Pete Judd, Mark Stauber, Wendy Graham (IC Reporter), Zach Hautala (ICECA), and Craig Richardson (WICKWIRE).

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive public comments regarding the rewriting of the Zoning Ordinance in its entirety.

Mark Polley stated that he has no idea what was changed in the new Zoning Ordinance and doesn't understand how the Council can approve of something the public had no opportunity to see.

There being no written or oral comments, Mayor Dood adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:16 p.m.

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
5:15 PM
Minutes**

Mayor Rodney Dood called the meeting to order at 5:16 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, Officer Roy D'Antonio and Officer Caleb Greenough.

Public in attendance: Vicky Powell, Timmothy Ballinger, Mark Polley, Adam Polley, Patti Leonoff, Pete Judd, Mark Stauber, Wendy Graham (IC Reporter), Zach Hautala (ICECA), and Craig Richardson (WICKWIRE).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Polley stated that he picked up the FOIA regarding the Reporter Building and its' financials. He was disturbed by the amount of money that has been invested up to this point and noted that there are more items on the current agenda that will only add more expenses to the overall cost of

moving City Hall into the Reporter Building. He added that having the two buildings is costing the taxpayers a large amount of money and we still haven't even sold the current City Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Clements moved with support from Garcia to approve the agenda with the addition of item L) Offer to purchase City Property Railroad Grade and item M) Offer to Purchase City Property 054-027-001-00 under New Business. All in favor; Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Garcia moved with support from Powell to approve:

- March 19, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

All were in favor; Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- March 12, 2025, Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes with the correction of adding Garcia's name to Roll Call.
- March 17, 2025, DDA Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 18, 2025, Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
- DPW Report
- IRPD Report

All were in favor; Motion carried.

REPORTS:

ICECA

Hautala updated the Council regarding the lunch and learn micro event on May 7, 2025, at the VFW in Crystal Falls, the Market by Generations event. This event is for any ICECA member, and he encouraged all council members to RSVP.

Hautala also gave a quick update regarding Business After Hours, noting that that April 30, 2025, is the next event, which will be hosted at Young's. CoVantage is sponsoring the event and will be honoring the non-profits of Iron County.

Garcia moved with support from Clements to accept the ICECA Report as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried.

County of Iron

Mark Stauber explained that the County is currently working on a feasible recycling solution for the residents. He and a committee have been working with WUPPDR on finding grants to keep a recycling program affordable for our residents.

Andreski noted that Taproot Community Farm may be willing to take some of the household waste and compost it.

Stauber noted that the committee is looking into all options, and their goal is to provide a County recycling program that is affordable and sustainable.

Clements moved with support from Leonoff to accept the County of Iron's report as presents. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Attorney Report (verbal)

Blight - Attorney Goodman began by giving an update on blight, stating that she may have found a way to streamline the process and would like to utilize the work van and community service to help clean up blight.

New City Hall - She explained that there has been no update and nothing has been solidified. She will continue to work with Mr. Denha.

Clements moved with support from Powell to accept the Attorney's Report as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Manager's Report

- Blighted House – Andreski updated Council on the house on Altone, explaining that the County has now foreclosed for nonpayment of taxes. The County has now hired someone to clean up the vehicles from the property. Chief Harrington has been in contact with the Treasurer's office in hopes that they can utilize the County Work Van to clean up the rest of the blight.
- Foreclosures – Andreski explained that the Zippidy's building has also been foreclosed upon by the County along with two houses and a parcel of land.
- CWSRF – Garcia had questions regarding the Northern Long-Eared Bat species that had been identified in our area. EGLE had reached out regarding the City's plan on how we were going to deal with the bat.

Andreski noted that there will be some tree removal, and they will do the work before the bat migrates to our area. This satisfied EGLE.

- Spring Clean-Up – Andreski stated that we have scheduled the date for the annual Spring Clean-Up for May 10, 2025. This year, only one truckload will be accepted per household. An ad will be placed in the Reporter, on social media and at City Hall.
- Congressionally Directed Spending/ Community Project Funding Grants – Andreski stated that with the assistance of WICKWIRE, two grants have been applied for. One would cover a new DPW dump truck with a plow and a front-end loader. The other grant would be for the last section of old water main and repainting the water tanks. Both grants are a 25% match. October we will be notified.
- Summer Help – Andreski noted that we had two applicants for the summer DPW positions, both have accepted a position and will begin when school is out.
- Zoning Administrator – Andreski stated that she met with Iron River Township Supervisor and Bates Township Supervisor where Zoning Administrators came up in the discussion. Both Townships have an individual whose sole responsibility is zoning. She noted how many permits we process on average and stated that this would be a great time to budget for the position and hire someone to take over the responsibilities.

Garcia moved with support from Clements to accept the Manager's Report as presents. All in favor; Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

City Financial Report – March 2025

Leonoff moved with support from Clements to accept the City Financial Report for March 2025 as presented.

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

Accounts Payable Report – March 2025

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to accept the Accounts Payable Report for March 2025 as presented.

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

City Attorney Invoice – March 2025

Clements moved with support from Powell to accept the City Attorney Invoice for March 2025 in the amount of \$1,260.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Generator – Global Response North Building

Andreski stated that at this time there is no update. Dood motioned with support from Garcia to table the Global Response North Building. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Adoption of Proposed Zoning Ordinance Rewrite

Garcia motioned with support from Leonoff to approve the Adoption of the proposed Zoning Ordinance rewrite.

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

Review Utility Billing Rates

Andreski noted that we are still waiting on the financial advisor for the results. Dood moved with support from Garcia to table the review as part of the CWSRF project. All in favor; Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Set Public Hearing Date and Time for FY25 -26 Budget

Andreski explained that per City ordinance, she must present the budget to the Council. After some discussion, it was decided that May 5, 2025, a budget workshop will be held at 4:30 p.m. It was also decided that the Public Hearing for the budget will be held before the normally scheduled City Council meeting on May 21, 2025, at 5:15p.m.

Ayres Proposal – 2025 Routine Bridge Inspection/ SNBI Data Collection

Andreski explained that the East Genesee Street bridge is nearing its longevity date. MDOT is required that we have it inspected yearly. We have applied for a grant to fix this bridge and since this bridge is historical, we are allowed to rehab it instead of completely replacing it. We have a good chance of being awarded this grant, but in the meantime, we still need to have the bridge inspected. We have worked with Ayres in the past and they have done a great job. MDOT is switching over their data collection and is requiring that we convert our data as well. Ayres submitted their proposal to convert the SNBI Data and perform routine bridge inspections. Clements moved with support from Garcia to accept Ayres proposal in the amount of \$3,350 for routine bridge inspections and converting SNBI Data.

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

Outdoor Warning Siren

Andreski stated that the siren was obtained by a grant which was applied for by the Fire Authority and the City. With City Hall being moved, the fate of the siren needs to be determined. Andreski had spoken with Fire Chief Jim Mylchreest and he feels that the Department would like to still utilize it. He believes that the siren is a great tool because it alerts fire personnel even if they don't hear the page from dispatch. The Chief of Police Harrington stated that they no longer use the siren for curfew and would not be opposed to getting rid of it. The Fire Department pays for the annual maintenance, while the City pays for the electricity. Andreski has been in contact with West Shore Services, Inc., who performed the installation and the annual inspections for a quote to relocate the siren and is currently waiting for a response.

Clements moved with support from Leonoff to table the outdoor warning siren until Andreski obtains a relocation quote from West Shore Services, Inc. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Reporter Building Renovations Project – Pay Request No. 1

Andreski stated that Pay Request No. 1 is for stored materials and for the work completed on the project through April 10, 2025.

Clements motioned with the support from Powell to accept the Reporter Building Renovations Project – Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$69,825. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Garcia, Leonoff, Powell, Clements and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion Carried.

Authorization MDOT SSSG Contract No. 25-5010 Resolution 25-03

Andreski stated that this Resolution will authorize herself and Mayor Dood to sign the contract for the Apple Blossom Trail Boardwalk. This contract is from The Shared Space and Street Grant from MDOT in the amount of \$200,000. Once approved, MDOT will send the agreement for Andreski and Dood to sign.

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to approve Resolution No. 25-03. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Clements, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion Carried.

Resolution Authorizing Publication of Notice of Intent to Issue Revenue Bonds and Declaring Intent to Reimburse (CWSRF Project) Resolution 25-04

As part of EGLE and receiving funding for the CWSRF Project, we must publish a notice of intent to issue and declare intent to reimburse. This resolution was prepared by Miller Canfield and once this is approved, the notice will be put in the Reporter to let the public know how we are funding through a bond. Clements moved with support from Leonoff to accept Resolution No. 25-04 as presented.

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

Siding Requirement Permit Application Fee

Powell expressed that he doesn't feel comfortable charging for improvements. He said he could understand for building projects but not for siding. Dood noted that this is the time to set a fee, and that fee could be zero. Garcia agreed with Powell regarding a fee for siding.

Garcia moved with support from Clements to set the siding permit fee to zero.

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

WW Proposal for Utility Mapping Updates

Andreski stated that we are looking into getting one map that has all the water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer system. The last time this was done was in 2014.

Richardson stated that they will update the GIS map and the utility map and can digitize all the information, as well as provide paper backups.

Garcia moved with support from Powell to accept the proposal for Professional Engineering Services for Utility Mapping Updates from WICKWIRE for \$16,000.

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

Bid Award Recommendation – Reporter Building Parking Lot Replacement

Andreski stated that the City received two bids, with Payne and Dolan coming in with the most competitive bid.

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to accept Payne and Dolan Inc, in the amount of \$16,146.50 for the total base bid.

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

Iron County Trail Club Expansion Proposal

Benjamin Garcia, a representative for the Iron County Trail Club (ICTC), submitted a request for the use of City property for the expansion of their trail system. Taproot Community Farms has also agreed to let the ICTC expand the trail system through their property as well. He supplied the Council with a License Agreement regarding the property and use.

Powell stated that he had concerns about letting the Trail Club use the property just in case someone is interested in purchasing the property.

Interim Attorney Goodman stated that she would advise against approving the contract, as she feels some of the language is not fitting. She would like to see a reverter clause regarding the land.

Mayor Dood moved with support from Clements to table the Iron County Trail Club Expansion Proposal until Interim Attorney Goodman can investigate the License Agreement. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Classic Farm Machinery Club of Iron County Sponsorship

Fred and Linda Hauser, representatives from the Classic Farm Machinery Club of Iron County, are requesting sponsorship to help with funding for advertising, banners, flyers and porta potties. Andreski stated that this is a great event that brings lots of people to our community and helps support our downtown businesses.

Leonoff moved with support from Clements to sponsor \$2,000 to the Iron County Classic Farm Machinery Club.

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

Offer to Purchase City Property – Railroad Grade

Robert Swanson would like to purchase the Railroad Grade which is adjacent to his property. The grade has no utilities and is about 1.78 acres. Patti Roell, City Assessor, valued the grade at \$4,000. Swanson agreed to the purchase price.

Interim Attorney Goodman stated that she would not suggest agreeing to the sale. She is worried about the surveying.

Dood moved with support from Leonoff to allow Gary Pisoni to survey the lot with Robert Swanson covering the cost of the survey. Once the surveying is complete, Mr. Swanson may bring the clear survey back to Council and they can further discuss the sale of the grade. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Offer to Purchase City Property – 054-027-001-00

Andreski stated that this property is approximately a 10.8-acre lot across the street from the Brush Dump. She had spoken with the assessor, who valued the parcel at \$35,000.

Stephen and Gina Golliher are interested in purchasing the property for \$21,760. They plan to build a shop to store their equipment and will also be used for storage of firewood and other equipment.

Leonoff moved with support from Powell to accept the Golliher's offer to purchase City Parcel 054-027-001-00 in the amount of \$21,760 plus legal fees.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Polley expressed his thoughts regarding the financial information concerning the move to the Reporter. He stated that Council is violating his rights by not allowing him to comment on items added to the agenda. He noted that City Hall is a historical site. He stated that Council is not being transparent when it comes to the finances.

Timothy Ballinger expressed his support for the hiring of a zoning administrator. He stated that he submitted a fence permit 28 days ago and had not been contacted regarding the status of his application. He believes that Andreski is too busy for the role of Zoning Administrator and fully supports another person fulfilling those duties.


COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council member Clements stated that he is always available to the public and welcomes any who would like to be heard. He wants to hear from his constituents and get their opinions. He also stated that the Zoning Ordinance rewrite was available at the library, a copy was also available in the Clerk's Office.

Mayor Dood stated for the record that he didn't lie regarding the Reporter Building financials. The information was made available for those who were interested in viewing it.

ADJOURNMENT

Dood motioned with support from Powell to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.



Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk