

IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 16, 2025
5:15 PM
Minutes
AMENDED

Mayor Rodney Dood called the Regular meeting to order 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 and Interim City Attorney Hannah Goodman.

Public in attendance: Vicky Powell, John LeClair, Patti Leonoff, Martha Burdick, Timmothy Ballinger, Mark Polley, Adam Polley, Caroline Person, Carly Eckberg, JB Allen, Zach Hautala (ICECA), Wendy Graham (IC Reporter), and Seth Miatch (WICKWIRE).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Clements moved with support from Leonoff to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business Item H – 2025 Street Improvements Project – Change Order #1. All in favor; Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Clements moved with support from Garcia to approve:

- July 18, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- June 25, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes
- July 2, 2025, Special 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:

- June 12, 2025, Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
- June 16, 2025, DDA Regular Meeting Minutes
- DPW Report
- IRPD Report

All were in favor; Motion carried.

REPORTS:

ICECA

- Fast Track Grant – Hautala noted that they have notified all the applicants and are still waiting for a couple of them to respond. He will release names once all have responded.
- Rural Readiness Grant – Hautala has submitted a Letter of Intent to the Office of Rural Prosperity for the Rural Readiness Grant. If invited to submit a full application, his proposed

project will involve the creation of a comprehensive mapping document that consolidates key zoning and property data to assist future development efforts. The project aims to map all commercial, industrial, multifamily-zoned and municipally owned properties across 12 municipalities, compiling the data into a single, user-friendly document. This resource will be designed to support developers by streamlining access to essential land use information in the region. Hautala plans to collaborate with GEI Consultants and WICKWIRE to execute the mapping and data integration aspects of the project.

- Event – Preliminary numbers show good turn outs for the Rodeo and Bass Fest. Hautala will provide final numbers in his next report.

Powell stated that TV6 didn't advertise ahead of the Rodeo. He inquired as to why they were not down here promoting early. Hautala noted that they conducted an interview Friday night and stated that they will work on making sure our news outlets are informed of events so they may promote accordingly.

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

County of Iron

Pete Judd stated that as many already know, the County has put out an RFP regarding dispatch services. He noted that there are a lot of rumors going around but stated the biggest problem is staffing issues. They are down to four full-time employees, and it's budgeted for eight. He continued stating regardless of the pay increase, they are still having difficulties staffing dispatch. He noted that it is a highly stressed job. He included that he has not decided anything yet and will wait to see what the RFPs produce.

Mayor Dood asked Mr. Judd what his opinion on dispatch and added that the City would like dispatch to remain local. He additionally said that Council would like to write a letter of support of 911 dispatch staying in Iron County. Dood motioned with the support of Clements to write a letter of support for keeping 911 dispatch local. All in favor; motion carried.

Garcia asked why employees are leaving, if it is indeed a pay issue and why have we not increased wages and if the County lacked funding. Judd reiterated that he was new to his role. He noted that contract negotiations took place in November where raises were given but other counties continue to pay more. He doesn't believe that pay is the issue. Garcia noted that dispatching is a high stress position and perhaps that is the reason behind staffing issues.

Judd added that it was awesome to see all the tourists in town for the rodeo and wanted to remind the locals that tourists are great. They spend money in our community.

Garcia moved with support from Powell to accept the County of Iron report as presents. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Attorney Report (verbal)

Global Response – Attorney Goodman stated that she has been in contact with Steven Tinti and he will be drafting the documents regarding the Global Response Building. She believes that Mr. Shooster is looking for a tax write off so it will take some time to get a draft of the agreement done. Sewer Project – Attorney Goodman added that she has been working with WICKWIRE on the construction easement for the sewer project.

Blight – She added that she is continuing to work with Chief Harrington on blight.

Deeds – Attorney Goodman stated that some of the deeds have been recorded incorrectly. She suggested a property survey before the purchase of any property be a requirement.

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

UP Championship Rodeo

Gary Olson was not in attendance, so nothing new to report.

Manager's Report

- Rodeo – Andreski noted that there were a lot of people in town for the rodeo.
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)/ Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant – Andreski informed Council that she was notified that unfortunately we were not awarded the grant. Aubrey Moore from Gary Peter's office stated that there are other grants in place, so there are other ways to find funding for equipment as it is in dire need of.

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

Windsor center/ Joint Public Building Report

Leonoff stated that they just had the meeting, and the minutes will be available next meeting. He noted that they are currently working through rental prices and bylaws.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Andreski noted that we have ended our fiscal year, and Treasurer Amanda will be getting together the final numbers, but tentatively we should end up in good position.

City Financial Report – June 2025

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

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

Accounts Payable Report – June 2025

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

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

City Attorney Invoice – June 2025

Leonoff moved with support from Clements to accept the City Attorney Invoice for June 2025 in the amount of \$1,292.06.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Generator – Global Response North Building

Andreski stated that we could probably take this off the agenda. Attorney Goodman stated that yes it can come off. Attorney Tinti is drafting up the paperwork, but she is under the impression that the County has voted and now we are just waiting for the paperwork.

Outdoor Warning Siren

Andreski stated that the West Iron County Fire Authority had their meeting and discussed the relocation of the siren. Their board has agreed to split the cost 50/50 with the City.

The estimated cost for the relocation of the siren is \$10,000. Andreski noted that there are other variables of cost savings if we could locate a Class 2 50' utility pole from UPPCO, possibly donated.

Andreski stated that the next step would be for Mr. Dupilka of West Shore Services to fly here and visit the site prior to providing the firm estimate, at the time he could also make his recommendation as to where to install the utility pole.

Clements motioned with support from Leonoff to accept a 50/50 split on the total cost with the WIC Fire Authority for the relocation of the siren.

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

Iron County Trail Club Expansion Proposal

Dood asked Attorney Goodman if she had completed the license agreement, to which she replied that she had not.

Attorney Goodman stated that she will be drafting a land agreement that is generic but noted that any specifics would take away from the generic aspects of it.

Powell stated that he would like a written contract before the Trail Club utilizes the trail. He inquired about what the license agreement is with Caspian. Garcia stated that it was confirmed by a “handshake.”

Dood noted that the trail club has been respectful, and they have their own insurance. He can't find a reason to deny the trail club.

Dood moved with the support from Clements to allow the Iron County Trail Club to utilize the city property between Washington Avenue and Reagan Street until Attorney Goodman can draft the license agreement at which point they will sign the agreement.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Powell, Leonoff, Clements and Dood. Nays – 0. Abstained - 1: Garcia. Motion Carried.

Sidewalk Replacement Program – Initiation by Owner

Andreski stated that she spoke with Treasurer Amanda and there is \$5,000 unallocated funds in Municipal Streets that could be earmarked for these requests. She noted that Crystal Falls allocates \$5,000 and some years they do not have any requests, while other years they may have to perform a budget amendment due to unpredictable requests.

Garcia suggested using the \$5,000 and putting it towards the materials cost, while the owner would be responsible for the labor costs. Dood asked if we would need a resolution to implement something like Crystal Falls sidewalk ordinance? Andreski stated as per the ordinance it is a resolution by the Council.

Clements stated that it might be a good idea to have the program be a reimbursement program. It would be cleaner because then the City can make sure inspections are done prior to getting a reimbursement. This would ensure the construction was completed correctly as well.

Dood moved with the support of Garcia to table the sidewalk replacement program until a resolution may be drafted

NEW BUSINESS

Chippewa Sno-Kats Trail Club, Inc – Trail 16 Resurfacing and Storm Sewer Project

Seth Miatech (WICKWIRE) stated that there is a portion of Trail 16 that has been washed out and WICKWIRE has completed the design to help prevent the trail from being washed out every time there is rain.

Dood mentioned that the Trail Club is contributing over \$25,000 towards the project and would like help to fix the City's portion, which would include the storm sewer and culvert. Miatech added that this would replace the pipes and the manhole, which will fix the washing out issue.

Garcia moved with support from Clements to approve the contribution of \$22,346.96 to the Chippewa Sno-Kats Trail Club, Inc – Trail 16 Resurfacing and Storm Sewer Project.

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

Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for the Trail 16 Resurfacing and Storm Sewer Project – Construction Services

Miatech (WICKWIRE) stated that it was requested by the City Manager that WICKWIRE perform full-time construction observations of the storm sewer improvements in an amount not to exceed \$3,800.00.

Clements motioned with the support from Leonoff to accept the Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for the Trail 16 Resurfacing and Storm Sewer Project – Construction Services in an amount not to exceed \$3,800.00 Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Garcia, Leonoff, Clements and Dood. Nays – 0. Motion Carried.

Classic Farm Machinery Club of Iron County Cruise Night

Andreski stated that normally she would have put this request in front of the DDA, but they do not meet in July. She noted that currently the Classic Farm Machinery Club of Iron County uses hand painted signs but have reached their life expectancy. There are four signs in total.

Garcia noted that if we were to support this, it would make the advertisement look cleaner and more professional. He also noted that Mrs. Hauser is extremely talented as she was the one who made the initial hand painted signs.

Leonoff questioned if there was enough money to sponsor the new signs. Andreski stated that in the General Fund there is unallocated money that could be used for the signs.

Clements motioned with support from Leonoff to sponsor the Classic Farm Machinery Club of Iron County in purchasing four signs in the amount of \$1,125.00 with a request that the DDA reimburse the sponsorship in full or a portion.

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

Iron County Soccer Club Request

JB Allen, representing the SAY (Soccer Association for Youth) Soccer Club, addressed the Council to discuss the possibility of acquiring City-owned property located at Kofmehl and Coolidge. Allen stated that he had previously met with City Manager Andreski regarding the proposal. The club is seeking land to construct a dedicated soccer complex, which would allow SAY to expand and offer both spring and fall leagues. He emphasized the difficulty in securing fields for the club's use and noted that having a permanent location would centralize operations and better serve the youth of Iron County. Allen also assured that if SAY were to dissolve, the land would revert back to City ownership.

Powell expressed concern, noting that the parcel is in a prime location and could be well-suited for housing development. Andreski added that the lot comprises 32.3 acres and contains some wetlands in the rear portion of the property.

Garcia inquired about alternative City-owned properties that might meet the soccer club's needs. Andreski responded that there are only three potential parcels: one near Forbes that is shovel-ready, one recently approved for use by the Iron County Trail Club, and the Kofmehl and Coolidge parcel under discussion.

Leonoff asked whether SAY was seeking the entire parcel and inquired about their fundraising efforts. Allen confirmed the club's interest in the entire property, citing the size requirements of full soccer fields. He stated that fundraising efforts have not yet begun, as the club needs to secure land before beginning fundraising for the complex.

Dood noted that the City currently faces a housing shortage, and that this parcel would be ideal for apartment development.

Garcia also asked if SAY had explored land options with the County, suggesting they may have available parcels suitable for the soccer club's needs. Allen acknowledged that he had not yet approached the County but agreed to explore that option.

Clements motioned with support from Powell to table the Iron County Soccer Club Request. All in favor; Motion Carried.

ZBA Council Seat

Mayor Dood stated that he would like to be appointed to the ZBA seat.

Dood motioned with support from Leonoff to appoint Rodney Dood to the Zoning Board of Appeals. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Offer to Purchase City Property – 054-025-162-00

Andreski stated that this parcel is buildable and has been listed on the City's website as Parcel #16 for \$4,500. There has been an offer sent in by Bruce Verville in the amount of \$4,500 to purchase the lot with the intention of building a 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom house.

Garcia motioned with the support from Clements to approve the Offer to Purchase City Property – 054-028-162-00 in the amount of \$4,500 plus closing cost and contingent on a survey being completed and provided to the Assessor.

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

Offer to Purchase City Property – 042-673-012-00

Powell began by formally withdrawing his written proposal in the amount of \$12,500 and stated that he would instead like to offer the amount at which the City Assessor had assessed the property.

City Manager Andreski noted that the building on the parcel is currently being used to store plows for the Department of Public Works (DPW). Garcia inquired whether there was an alternative location available for storing the plows. Powell suggested that the plows could remain on the parcel temporarily until a new storage location is identified. Andreski confirmed that the equipment could be relocated if necessary.

Andreski also shared that she had contacted Gary Pisoni regarding a survey of the property. Pisoni provided the legal description of the parcel, making a formal survey unnecessary at this time.

Powell clarified that his initial offer had been based on a price point given by Patti Roell, the City Assessor. However, that figure proved to be inaccurate, prompting him to withdraw the original offer and proceed with a new offer based on the official assessed value.

Leonoff motioned with support from Garcia to approve the Offer to Purchase City Property – 042-673-012-00 in the amount assessed of \$10,100.00 plus closing costs.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Clements, Garcia, Leonoff, and Dood. Nays – 0. Abstained – 1: Powell. Motion Carried.

2025 Street Improvements Project – Change Order # 1

Miatech reported that WICKWIRE has been working in coordination with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to address the condition of Lay Avenue, which is deteriorating significantly. A recent inspection of the storm sewer confirmed that it is functioning properly. However, to address the road issues, full repaving is required. Andreski requested a cost from Payne and Dolan to incorporate into the 2025 Street Project.

Clements asked about the root cause of the road deterioration. Miatech explained that the road is situated in a wetland area and experiences heavy usage, contributing to its rapid decline.

Powell inquired about the cost details and the necessity of both a base course and a top course of asphalt. Miatech responded that including both layers provides added durability and ensures that the project is completed to a high standard, with longevity in mind.

Clements moved with support from Powell to accept the 2025 Street Improvements Project – Change Order #1 in the amount of \$49,303.50.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Polley again voiced his concerns regarding the relocation of City Hall. He accused the Council of misleading the public about the renovation costs and expressed strong opposition to the project, stating that it could lead to the financial ruin of the city and is unfair to taxpayers. Additionally, he noted that the recent Rodeo event was a success.

Adam Polley made his accusations regarding Craig Richardson (WICKWIRE). He believes that the City Manager is speaking out against a candidate who is running for Council. He accused Andreski of being able to interfere with the election.

In response, Clerk Elenbaas stated for the record that she is solely responsible for all election-related matters and assured Mr. Polley that all ballots are secure and will be safely in her possession.

Adam Polley continued to make accusations and stated that the Council needs to put Andreski “on a tighter leash.”

Caroline Persons, a member of the Iron Mountain Flower Club and an employee at Corner Drug, expressed her interest in helping to clean up the berms in the parking lots. She mentioned that she has already been involved in cleanup efforts and inquired whether there might be funding available to assist with purchasing mulch for the berms.

City Manager Andreski informed Ms. Person that the berms are scheduled for removal as part of the upcoming parking lot project. It was suggested that Ms. Person consider joining the Beautification Committee, as her enthusiasm and efforts could be a valuable asset. Andreski invited Ms. Person to meet with her to further discuss potential opportunities to contribute to the City’s beautification initiatives.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Dood gave thanks to all those involved with the Rodeo. He agreed that it was a great show and a great parade. He stated it was fun to see all the people and the horses.

ADJOURNMENT

Dood motioned with support from Powell to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.



Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk