

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

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, Benjamin Garcia and Ronjo Leonoff and Dood.

Absent: Anthony Clements.

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

Public in attendance: Greg Scott (Bump's Burger) Vicky Powell, Adrienne Baker, Don Gasperini, Kathy Stevens, Patty Smith, Kelli Butler, Patti Leonoff, Martha Burdick, Timmothy Ballinger, Karen Paddock, Charles Paddock, Zach Elenbaas, Kyle Kuenn, Mark Polley, Adam Polley, Pete Judd, Chief Curt Harrington (IRPD), Officer Jason Wicklund (IRPD), Wendy Graham (The Reporter), and Seth Miatech (WICKWIRE).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Garcia moved with support from Powell to approve:

- September 17, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

All were in favor; Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Polley stated the City Council is ripping off the residents. He alleged that the new city hall is well over budget, for well over a million dollars. Mayor Dood interjected, stating that Mr. Polley is lying and that he will not tolerate slander. Polley insisted that it was not "slander" and claimed that Dood told the people that he would not go into the building if it was too expensive, would not go into that building if we didn't get a good price for the current building. He stated that we have a big problem with the new city hall as it is covered in mold. He stated that he had asked if the building had been inspected, and no one responded to him. He claimed that last week he took pictures of the mold on the west side of the building. He added that he called the State of Michigan and talked to them about it, he alleged that the State is concerned about what is going on over at the new city hall. He stated that the new city hall is not a healthy building. He alleges that he was told that the back wall is worse than the side wall. He claims that the building should have been torn down instead of fixed. He alleged that the Council has buried the taxpayers for well over a million dollars. Dood again interjected, saying that the building is not over a million dollars and Mr. Polley needs to stop telling false information. Polley alleged that the City didn't even fix up the building as planned as the glass wall is still present. He again stated that the building is not healthy for the employees, and it scares him that the women from the office will be working in an unhealthy building. Dood sarcastically added that he has seen mold go through concrete walls. Polley stated that Dood thinks he is "pretty smart." Dood concluded that the issue is being repaired.

Patty Smith stated that she had been at the last month and had asked about the Managers' report and the budget report and was told that she could not get the information. She came to City Hall the next day and talked with Clerk Elenbaas about obtaining copies. She was told she would have to file a FOIA and turn it in. She added that she would have to pay for the report as well. She stated that she didn't understand what's so private and why she would have to pay. She stated that she is a taxpayer, who pays pretty good taxes here. She questioned why she must pay for information that is supposed to be public. She added that she knows that the Council will not answer her to which Mayor Dood stated he will respond. Dood started at the beginning of November, although not required by law, the city will make available all the reports to the public and are currently working on getting the full agenda on the website. Smith stated that it is good. Dood added that it will take some time as we must make sure the information is ADA compliant. He again stated that posting the full agenda is not required by law.

Timm Ballinger interrupted stating that the city is required by law, to which Interim City Attorney Goodman stated that we are not required but that the agenda just needs to be readily available. Ms. Smith stated that she doesn't care if it is online, but would just like to have it readily available, which she stated that it has not been previously.

Timm Ballinger asked if in any of the reports, if they include the seriousness of his concerns. He stated that he submitted a letter to the Planning Commission on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. He stated that he confirmed with Clerk Elenbaas that his letter was never delivered to the Planning Commission, because it was handed over to the City Manager. He alleged that the City Manager then decided when or if even to distribute the letter. He stated that his letter raises concern about conflict of interest and procedural integrity within the city boards. He stated that the letter was written respectfully and addressed to the proper body. He stated that when a citizen's communication is intercepted or withheld by an administrator... Mayor Dood asked Ballinger if any of this is related to an item on the agenda. Mr. Ballinger stated that he wants to know if this is in their reports or the Clerk's notes because he has raised concerns both verbally and via paper. He again asked if any of the concerns are in their reports. He added that he submitted a letter to the Planning Commission and Andreski took it and still has it. He believes that Andreski has no business touching any information that is submitted to the clerk from him to the Planning Commission. Dood stated that this is not related to anything on the agenda. Ballinger asked if it is part of any of the reports that are a part of the agenda. He asked if Mayor Dood understood that. He added under MCL 15.2632, the Open Meetings Act, the people's business must be conducted openly, the Iron River City Charter Section 405 assigns the Clerk, not the City Manager, the duty to keep and distribute official records to City and its boards. He alleges that withholding correspondence from a public body is not consistent with those duties. He respectfully requests that the City Council investigates to ensure that all citizens' letters, addresses to any board, all his previous letters are promptly delivered and acknowledged with the correct commission or board, without administrative interference. He thanked that Council for fairness and transparency, the people's trust depends upon it.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- DPW Report

All were in favor; Motion carried.

Mayor Dood explained that the Planning Commission Chairman didn't open the meeting properly and abruptly adjourned the meeting illegally, as it didn't comply with Robert's Rules nor the Planning Commission bylaws.

- September 15, 2025, DDA Regular Meeting Minutes
- October 9, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Leonoff moved with support from Powell to accept the September 15<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried. Absent: Clements.

## **IRPD REPORT**

Chief Harrington announced that the Police Department has hired a new full-time officer, Officer Robbins. Chief described Robbins as a nice young man and expressed appreciation for having a third full-time officer on the team. Chief noted that the department has been operating for over a year without full staff. Chief shared that Officer Robbins recently graduated from the police academy and, while young and inexperienced, will receive thorough training. Chief Harrington expressed confidence that Robbins will perform well and be a valuable addition to the City. He added that Robbins has already relocated to Iron River, renting an apartment, and is committed to staying in the community. Robbins has a girlfriend and two young children. Chief Harrington concluded by saying that Officer Robbins has a great personality, is intelligent, and will learn quickly, and these qualities that will help him serve the City effectively.

Chief also reported that the Police Department has hired a new secretary, Jeanne Callovi. He described her as a wonderful addition to the department. He noted that although he didn't know her personally before hiring her, she brings valuable experience from her previous positions at Adny's and Krist. He added that Jeanne has quickly become a standout member of the department, as many community members already know her. She greets everyone with a great smile and interacts exceptionally well with the public, making her a true asset to the department.

Chief Harrington also provided updates on other members of the Police Department. He noted that Officer Greenough, who has been with the department for just over two years, recently welcomed a new baby and remains very committed to his role. Chief Harrington commended Officer Greenough for his strong performance and dedication to the department. He also highlighted Officer Wicklund, who was hired last December and is originally from Iron River. Chief Harrington stated that Officer Wicklund knows many people in the community and brings a great deal of experience to the position. He added that Officer Wicklund is doing an excellent job and continues to be a valuable member of the team.

Chief stated that in 2024, the City of Iron had over 1600 police calls, just in the city alone. He added that that is over 400 calls per officer. He said that we are a very busy city and would recommend the City investigate hiring another full-time officer, if the budget allows. He added that the City Manager had done a great job working with him to get new equipment such as vests, flashlights and radios. He added that it would be great to get computers in the patrol cars. He stated that it is expensive with an initial fee around \$20,000. Once they are in place, they last around 5 to 7 years.

Chief Harrington explained that the officers are busy. The officers are on patrol, driving around through neighborhoods and conducting business checks. He added that the residents should be happy with the officers and the great work they continue to do.

Chief gave thanks to the Council for their help with the renegotiation of the union contract.

Chief stated that he serves on the 911 Advisory Committee, he detailed how he was a major proponent of keeping dispatch local. He believes it is important to keep it local. He noted some push back from some of the County Commissioners but stated that Garcia showed up at one of the meetings and spoke on behalf of the City and keeping 911 dispatch local. Chief thanked Garcia for speaking on behalf of the City.

Chief then shifted to blight, detailing the struggles. He stated that it is always interesting when they have to fight with grown adults, who act like they just lost their ice cream cone. He added at the beginning, there was over 160 people that were sent letters regarding their blight. He explained that now the list is down to around 30 or 40 residents. He, City Manager Andreski and Interim City Attorney Goodman have been working on a new blight ordinance for next year, a new way to implement the program, noting the lack of support from the courts. He explained that he would enforce blight, get the city cleaned up, do it respectfully, and have the community partake in the enforcement process.

Chief stated that there is a lot going on in our community, noting the parking lots. He added that if someone believes that nothing is happening in the town, he suggested getting off their porch and looking around because there are a lot of good things going on in our City. He added that getting the community clean can attract new businesses and better quality of people to move into the area.

Chief concluded that he was asked about the explosion site earlier and he has been working with the family, the courts, attorneys and State Farm to get the site cleaned up. He added that the site will be cleaned up by October 21, 2025. He noted that it has been a long, drawn-out process due to the contractor who initially took the job and didn't follow through.

Mayor Dood told Ms. Paddock that he apologizes but the meeting is not in public comment. Karen Paddock apologized for interrupting the meeting and stated that while she knew that this was not the correct time to speak, she encouraged all to be courteous and respectful. She stated that the comments that need to be made, and acknowledged that she is speaking out of turn, but continued with be nice, listen and make your comments nice or negative at the right time so that the City Council may do the work that they were elected to do. She apologized to the mayor and thanked him.

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to accept the IRPD Report as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried. Absent: Clements.

## **REPORTS:**

### **ICECA**

Nothing additional to add to the written report as Hautala was absent.

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

### **County of Iron**

Pete Judd stated that he will keep it brief. He explained that the County board had voted to keep dispatch local. He added that they are still struggling with manpower, as they only have 3 full-time dispatchers. He stated that it will take a few months to get that to a healthy point.

Garcia motioned with support from Leonoff to accept the County of Iron report as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried. Absent: Clements.



### **Attorney Report (verbal)**

- Ordinances – Goodman explained that she has provided a couple of drafts for new ordinances. She explained that Leonoff was concerned about E-bikes and potential danger. She encouraged the Council to review and edit as needed the draft that she had provided. She added that the Sidewalk Ordinance has also been provided. She again asked for edits or additional comments from the Council regarding changes to the Ordinance draft.
- FOIA/OMA – Goodman stated that she has been working with Andreski on recent FOIAs and Open Meeting Act complaints. She stated that while it is not a requirement for the information to be published online, it was agreed that it would help with transparency. She noted that it was agreed upon because it was the right thing to do not because the City is in violation or because there have been complaints. She touched on FOIA and the cost requests. She stated that she had spoken with the City Manager regarding costs of FOIAs. She stated that it can be a double edge sword, explaining that it is taxpayer money. She explained if the City doesn't charge for copies, it could be abused by the next person that requests copies. She gave an example of one resident sending in a FOIA that could be 500 pages and requesting items weekly. Goodman stated that the fees could add up quickly. She stated that a lot of these things are considered by the Council and the staff and taken into consideration. She stated that there is an attempt to try to accommodate and do what they can cost wise and remain transparent. She added that we are all open to suggestions and asked that we all have a more open, agreeable conversation regarding these things. She stated that we could get a lot more accomplished, with a lot less money, and stress if more would adopt that vision.

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

### **Manager's Report**

- Construction – Andreski noted that the City has been busy with all the construction projects going on. She noted the streets; the alleys and the Apple Blossom Trail are being completed. She noted the SRF project up in Stambaugh. She stated that it is all coming together beautifully. She stated that the parking lots are going to be blocked off and striped. She noted that as soon one lot dries, they will open that one and proceed to the next lot. She noted some hiccups, which Miatech (WICKWIRE) will detail later in his report.
- City Hall – Andreski stated that final inspections have been passed, and we are waiting on the final paperwork from the Iron County Code Construction office. She stated that there is a tentative date as to when city operations will be moved. She noted that a big concern will be moving the server and the telephones. Andreski noted that with the election, notification to the state on the change of location is required, this was not done, so the November election will be held at the current City Hall. She concluded that the New City Hall looks great.
- EGLE – Mike Westra met with both the City Manager and the Water Operator. He conducted an Annual Sanitary Survey. He was impressed by how proactive the city is with the water system. He noted that it is in excellent shape. She added that Aspirus is hosting a Health Fair, and the water operator will be there to take any questions the public has regarding water, testing and results. Andreski detailed how the city just conducted its annual water samples, and all samples have passed, with no detections of PFAS.
- Harvest and Haunt – Andreski stated that this event was well attended, with a record number of booths this year. She added that she and Chief had a lot of fun, and it looked like the community did as well. She stated that it is good to talk with residents and the community.

- Christmas in Lights – Andreski noted that it is that time of the year again where we will begin assembling out Christmas float. She stated that we are working on some ideas and look forward to the event.

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

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

Leonoff stated that they are setting new rental fees and going through proposals. He noted that all is going smoothly.

Garcia moved with support from Powell to accept the verbal Windson Center/Joint Public Building Reports as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried. Absent: Clements.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

#### **City Financial Report – September 2025**

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

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

#### **Accounts Payable Report – September 2025**

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

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

#### **City Attorney Invoice – September 2025**

Leonoff moved with support from Powell to accept the City Attorney Invoice for August 2025 in the amount of \$4,200.00

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Sidewalk Ordinance – Initiation by Owner**

Dood asked if anyone had any questions regarding the draft Interim City Attorney Goodman provided.

Garcia began by stating that this draft is decent and follows Crystal Falls. He liked that it was comparable to Crystal Falls to keep things consistent. Powell noted that regardless there will be complaints, as you can't make everyone happy.

Garcia suggested that a base be set, so that way each year what has been budgeted. Dood stated that there is already something in the draft that states the base. Garcia read the section called Funding Source, which states: funds for this program will be allocated from the City's annual budget for infrastructure improvements. The City shall set a budget for the sidewalk replacement program annually; the City may cancel the sidewalk replacement program at any time. Garcia asked if Council needed to make a subset of the ordinance. Goodman stated that it would be more user friendly if available funds were assessed by the board and earmarked. She stated that the Council

could put in a number, but they would have to change it yearly. Dood stated that the funding part is already addressed in the draft provided.

Garcia inquired about when this would go into effect. Andreski stated that when initial conversations regarding sidewalk ordinance began in July, Andreski had spoken with Treasurer Tukesbrey, and there is \$5,000 of unallocated funds from municipal streets fund, that can be set for this. She noted that the amount may change next fiscal year. She stated if Council would like to earmark for this, they could. She pointed out that Crystal Falls does not include labor in their cost sharing, it's solely for the materials.

Dood stated that it is easier to leave the labor in as most contractors quote with labor included in their pricing. Powell inquired about if a resident decided to do the work by themselves. Dood stated that they would not be able to, it must be a prequalified sidewalk contractor doing the work. He would have to be licensed and insured.

Goodman stated that she has observed a few other municipalities. She noted that some have created lists and put it out there for any contractor that feel they may qualify. She stated that we could create a contractor list that we can distribute. She stated that it doesn't mean that residences are limited to the list, but the list just shows those the municipality knows are qualified. She stated that it may speed up the process. Garcia asked about scratching out the labor cost portion. Dood stated that he feels it should be left.

Garcia motioned with support from Leonoff to approve the Resolution to Establish a Policy for Residential Sidewalk Replacement as presented.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **County Designated Assessor**

Andreski detailed that back in 2018, PA 660 was adopted by Governor Snyder. PA 660 amended the general property tax act that provides statutory framework to ensure proper assessing in order to guarantee the highest quality assessments for taxpayers and their local units. The assessor was hired by the County and in the event a local unit was not in compliance with the general property tax act that designated assessor had the ability to assess, provide audits and follow up audits if they were not in compliance. Governor Whitmer amended it, stating that counties now have the ability to opt out. When our current assessor Roell was asked if she would like to continue, she declined. Andreski noted that it is the Counties board wishes to opt out.

Garcia asked what this would mean for the City. Andreski stated that it doesn't really affect the City. Roell will remain our assessor and the City has remained compliant. The State tax commission will end up having to deal with each local unit.

Leonoff moved with support from Garcia to opt out of using a Designated Assessor.

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

### **2025 Street Improvements – Application for Payment No. 1**

Miatech noted that the streets are complete. He stated that this payment is for work completed through October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. He noted that there will be one more after this, for the stuff they wrapped up. Miatech stated that it turned out nice and great to get the downtown done all at once.

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to accept the 2025 Street Improvements - Application for Payment No. 1 in the amount of \$ 640,876.87.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Powell, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. All in favor; Motion Carried.  
Absent: Clements.

#### **Reporter Building Renovations for Iron River City Hall – Application for Payment No. 6**

Miatech stated that this is the final pay request minus the retainage that will be given after the final walk through, and the Certificate of Occupancy is issued. This is for the work completed through October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, this doesn't include any of the work on the parking lot. Payne and Dolan will need to come back and fix the "bird bath" in the parking lot.

Garcia moved with support from Powell to accept the Reporter Building Renovations for Iron River City Hall - Application for Payment No. 6 in the amount of \$ 71,694.19 with \$13,195.44 being held as retainage.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Leonoff, Powell, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. All in favor; Motion Carried.  
Absent: Clements.

#### **Apple Blossom Trail Boardwalk Replacement – Final Application for Payment No. 3**

Miatech stated that this is the final application for payment releasing them from their retainage. The boardwalk is open now. Miatech added that all that is left to do, is send in the correct paperwork for the grant, so the City may get reimbursed. Miatech stated that this payment needs to be contingent upon Alliance Construction and Design providing the City with their Consent of Surety.

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to accept the Apple Blossom Trail Boardwalk Replacement - Final Application for Payment No. 3 in the amount of \$ 62,052.62 contingent on the Consent of Surety being provided.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Powell, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. All in favor; Motion Carried.  
Absent: Clements.

#### **2024 DDA Parking Lot Reconstruction – Application for Payment No. 1**

Miatech stated that this is for the work complete through October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. He noted that more has been completed since then, but they didn't have enough time to apply it to this application for payment. He noted that all the paving is finished, and pavement markings will be completed tomorrow. He added that there will be top soiled placed in each of the berms.

Garcia moved with the support of Leonoff to approve the 2024 DDA Parking Lot Reconstruction – Application for Payment No. 1 in the amount of \$300,966.28.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Powell, Leonoff, Garcia and Dood. Nays – 0. All in favor; Motion Carried.  
Absent: Clements.

#### **E-Bike Ordinance/Policy**

Interim City Attorney Goodman stated that she doesn't have an E-Bike nor does she have a lot of experience with them, but she did a significant amount of reading and looking into other ordinances regarding E-Bikes and drafted up something that was geared toward our City. She acknowledged that is room for additional thoughts and revisions as the board sees fit.



Powell suggested that the board table this item. Leonoff stated that E-Bikes are using the sidewalks, and he fears that someone will be coming out of one of the businesses and get hit by an E-Bikes.

Dood stated that it is tough because our city doesn't have a bike lane, nor do we have speed limit signs or multiuse signs. Goodman said depending on how far this goes, the board may decide that putting signage in the Central Business District may be beneficial. Garcia agreed with signage. Garcia, a self-proclaimed expert regarding E-Bikes, noted that he will not be voting when it comes to the Ordinance as he does own an E-Bike shop. He added that he does know that most of the E-Bikes around here are Class Two, they come with a throttle, but it doesn't have to be used as a throttle. He noted that the Apple Blossom Trail is supposed to be for non-motorized traffic and since some of the E-Bikes have a throttle they no longer meet those requirements.

Garcia explained that it would be hard to enforce speed limits, as some of the E-Bikes are not equipped with a speedometer. Dood stated that he doesn't have an issue with the E-Bikes on the Apple Blossom, his main concern is the E-Bikes on the sidewalks. Garcia stated that he believes that putting up a speed limit sign would not be a bad idea. He agreed that the sidewalks should be off limits to bicyclists. He added that we should teach biker etiquette.

Dood explained that he likes the speed limit and helmet clauses. Garcia stated that he agrees with Powell, the board should take this home and research more regarding this topic. He stated that he will reach out to the National Bike Association, with hopes of gaining more insight. He stated that one of his concerns is enforcement. He suggested involving Chief in the discussion to get his opinion on enforcement.

Andreski added that per ordinance, we need to introduce the ordinance, which Interim City Attorney Goodman did today, and then a public hearing would need to schedule.

Leonoff moved with support from Garcia to table to E-Bike Ordinance/Policy until further information can be obtained. All in favor; Motion Carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Adam Polley stated that the City is in violation for making a disabled American stand at the podium to speak. He alleged that Council doesn't not care about the disabled citizens, but he does because there are a lot out there. He stated that he will not take advice from anyone that barely wears shoes on a bicycle. He claims that Council took an oath, to do the right thing and represent the people of this town, to which he feels they have failed at. He stated that they have relinquished Council's authority to "that thing over there." Mayor Dood interjected and gave Mr. Polley a verbal warning that he would not tolerate slander. Polley insisted that he has free speech. Dood stated if you don't slander. Polley stated that he is allowed to speak. He then went to say that Council has gone off the rails. Garcia asked that the chatter amongst the audience stop because Mr. Polley has the floor to speak. Polley then began accusing Andreski of making too many decisions at this point, Mayor Dood told Mr. Polley that he was finished and to sit down. Mr. Polley shouted that Council and Andreski are useless and that they have betrayed the City. As Mr. Polley was removing himself from the Chambers, he called Chief Harrington a "douche bag" and told him to shut his mouth.

Mark Polley stated that Dood owes him an apology. He stated that the board had said they were not going to move to the new city hall if it cost too much. He stated that he does not come to the meetings to yell at them, but when he gets called a liar and accused of slander, when the correct

information is right there. He stated that the three council members, Andreski and Chief Harrington, stand there and state that the city has a good police department, which he feels we don't. Dood said, "There you go with slander again." Mr. Polley disagreed, stating that he is telling the truth. Dood stated that he is done, and he will not be taking it anymore. Mr. Polley stated that he is allowed to speak, there is public comment and freedom of speech. Dood asked that Polley be respectful. Interim City Attorney Goodman interjected and read the policy on the agenda regarding conduct for public comment. Mr. Polley asked if this is no longer public comment, adding that it's a gestapo type thing. He alleged that he was on his phone, where a city board was sued for not allowing public comment and had to pay. He stated that he had not sworn at the Council, he stated that he has only come up with things he can prove. He alleged that he filed a complaint against the Council from a meeting where Dood refused to let Polley speak because he didn't go to the podium. He alleges that he was hurt, and it hurt him to have to stand to give his public comment, so he left. He said he went down to file a complaint with one of the officers, who is no longer here. He believes it's because the officer didn't want to work for Chief Harrington. He accused Council of violating the law, the Open Meetings Act, and Disabilities Act. He stated that Chief Harrington had come to Council and asked for a \$5 raise for the police department, to which Andreski stated that there were not funds to do so. Polley believes that none of the officers want to work for Chief Harrington. He alleged that Chief Harrington was charged...Dood interrupted Polley, stating he is again slandering and needs to stop. Polley said no and at that point Dood asked Mr. Polley to remove himself because he is done. Mr. Polley stated that he is done because Dood can't stand the truth. He accused Dood of "not being able to handle the truth. Mr. Polley stated that he doesn't trust Chief Harrington. As Mr. Polley was removing himself, he shouted that he is not done with Mr. Dood.

Karen Paddock stated she would just shut out the noise from Polley. Ms. Paddock stated that what Mr. Polley just said is a threat. She stated that she believes that Mr. Polley needs to be held accountable for threatening our City Council, the City Manager and the Police. Ms. Paddock started with a thank you to Andreski for the conversation they had on a previous date. She added that with everything going on, Andreski still took a call from a citizen and took the time to explain. She thanked Chief for his time in explaining things. She stated that she knows some of the Council and has known Mayor Dood for many years. She knows that they are good people. As a citizen she acknowledges that we will not always agree, but that doesn't mean we get to attack each other. She stated that she has known the Interim City Attorney and knows she is good person as well. She asked when she would come to a meeting, that there be civil discussions. She acknowledges that there are certain people that every meeting they tear others down or tear the city down. She stated that she would like her road repaired too, but it was explained to her and now she understands that it will be a while. If someone can't get their way, the Council is not a place where they can scrap the dog poop off their shoes onto. She stated Council does not deserve that. She again thanked Council for what they are doing and leading our community. She stated that the street project has the potential to bring in more businesses. She stated that people are not tripping in potholes to get to Bumps. She concluded that the good people of Iron River and the City Council need a "congratulations" and an "attaboy" instead of being totally disrespected. She again stated that even with law enforcement, she felt threatened. She believes that she should not feel threatened in this building. She stated that she doesn't want to go into the beautiful new building and feel threatened.

Zach Elenbaas asked about the process of the agenda and asked if the City has the technology to convert PDFs to a readable version. He cautioned Council not to be bullied and stated that it could invite more bullying if the Council doesn't remain strong.

Adrienne Baker stated that we are losing our ability to get rid of some of our blight with the closure of the Waste Station. She stated that we are raising the anti but with no solutions on how to get rid of items. She stated that there should be corresponding accommodation if the City would like residents to get rid of blight items. She acknowledged that this is a county issue. She asked what residents are supposed to do with their junk. She stated that she understands the City host clean ups and suggests doing more clean ups. She stated that toxic waste such as paints, there is nowhere to dispose of these kinds of items. She would like to City address this issue.

Timm Ballinger stated that when it comes to blight, he has issue. He said that he read in the Planning Commission minutes that they are working on changing the current ordinance to better get the fines and fees collected because of the lack of support from the judicial system. He believes that the issue does not lie with the judicial system, but rather the City Manager and the Chief of Police and their approach to blight enforcement. He alleges that they improperly write letters and improperly cite ordinances. He stated that they don't follow their own laws, to be able to take it to court and effectively win a court case. He believes changing the blight ordinance to allow it to go on the tax roll does not work in the State of Michigan. He stated that the State of Michigan does not allow for to put fines on the tax roll. He stated that the idea of the City doing this is illegal and he suggests more research be conducted before "you open your mouth and suggest something that is totally illegal and you want our whole City to follow suite." Ballinger continued that he thinks it is ridiculous. He shifted to the new City Hall and asked about the mildew and mold that was "covered up." He asked if inspections had taken place and if Jim Marcell from the County had inspected the building. Miatech stated that he would ask Craig Richardson (WICKWIRE) for clarification but assured that all regulations have been followed. Ballinger stated that he would like to see the report that states that it was okay for the alleged mold/mildew to be covered up. He noted that he will file paperwork to see said report.

Patty Smith directed her question to the attorney asking if she was to come in next month and requested certain pages of the agenda without a FOIA? Dood stated that it is something we are looking into. She then shifted to cleaning up the City, the improvements and all the fun things like the corn stalks and pumpkin, which she stated are "really cute." She suggested that the City take it one step further, pull the weeds out and clean up on Genesee. She noted that the City is repairing the streets and alleys, she asked that the Department of Public Works take care of the potholes. She suggested the DPW become more proactive. She detailed a pothole by the Windsor Center; she stated that it has been there for over a year. She asked that the workers do not drive through the city with blinders on and try to find improvements, without having be told or wait for a complaint to come in. She noted Spruce Street and the potholes that she complained about in July. She stated she knows for a fact that the DPW drives that road every day but doesn't understand why they waited for a complaint to come in before fixing it. She concluded that we need to take our blinders off, she sees the improvements within the City and suggests that we take it one step further.

Kelli Butler stated that she attended a meeting a couple years ago and the same conduct was happening then. She noted it was a lot of yelling by the same people who are very frustrated. She was wondering why we can't get along. She wanted to know why people are so frustrated with the Council. She stated that on Facebook, there is so much animosity, that it's almost embarrassing. She stated that some of the things being written about those on Council, the City Manager and the Chief of Police. Butler stated that she hasn't paid attention to what exactly it is, but someone needs to do something to calm things down. Dood stated since he has been on Council, he (Polley) has done that. He pretty much ran off the last City Manager. Dood stated that he is not that kind of person,

that he can disagree with someone and still go out to dinner with them that night. Butler stated that this is just embarrassing.

Kathy Stevens inquired about what will happen to City Hall once the new city hall is completed. She expressed concern about having to take care of both buildings. She stated that she doesn't want it to turn into another "pot" place. Dood assured Stevens that that is not a possibility as it is against the ordinance. Dood detailed that there is still an interested party that wants to buy the building. Stevens stated that she doesn't want to see the building gone. Dood noted that the building is too big for what the City uses. He added that this was a three-year process to relocate and sell City Hall. Stevens then asked about how many workers the City has in the DPW. Andreski stated that there are six workers. Dood noted that the City does bring in extra help during the winter and summer months. Stevens thanked that Council for the improvements but then expressed disappointment with the fact that QuikTrip is not coming to Iron River. Garcia stated that she is not the only one.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Garcia stated that one thing that has been incorrectly reported to the community is that the new City Hall is grossly over budget. The Council had the conversation early on and it was discussed that, if it was outrageous, the City would not make the move. He noted that price was decent and time after time, the City has come in under budget. He added that we were able to get electrical upgrades, the parking lot was able to be repaved, which was not part of the original plan. The contractor has opted to side for free, the City just paid for the parts. He noted this is how we became aware that there was a leak, which was then fixed. He stated that if any have ever renovated an old building, there is always surprises. He added that we are still on budget, it has gone smoothly and gone very well. He suggested that if someone hears something about the new City Hall being overbudget, he asks that it be corrected. He noted that our town is growing and growing pains will happen. He stated that he has been here 15 years, this is his home. He detailed his reasons for approving the move to the new city hall, expressing that it is fiscally responsible to do so and fits our needs better. Garcia concluded that he appreciates those that came, appreciates the words of support, appreciates those that brought issues to their attention and those who don't agree with Council. He thanks all for civil conversation. He then encouraged all to vote, he stated while he is running, he doesn't expect a vote.

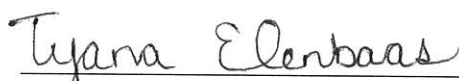
Dood gave his thanks to Rachel for the hard work she does. He noted that her heart is in the City and it hurts him to see someone get up to the podium and bash her. He proclaimed that she does not deserve that and he apologized if he has not stepped up soon enough. He then thanked Chief Harrington and Clerk Elenbaas.

Leonoff stated thanks to all the people who stood up for the City.

Dood stated don't give the Council too much credit, as it was a DDA project and they are paying for it, regarding the Parking Lot Improvements.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dood motioned with support from Garcia to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

  
Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk