

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Wednesday, December 17, 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, Anthony Clements, Benjamin Garcia, (left at 5:57 p.m.) Ronjo Leonoff and Dood.

Absent: None.

Also, present: City Manager Rachel Andreski, City Clerk Tyana Elenbaas, Officer Caleb Greenough and Officer Tyler Robbins.

Public in attendance: Vicky Powell, Zach Elenbaas, Martha Burdick, Kyle Kuenn, Erik Ballinger, Timmothy Ballinger, Dave Sankey, Patti Leonoff, Adrienne Baker, Abigail Garcia, Nicole Desentz, Pete Judd, Karen Knopp, Scott Sternhagen, (CLA) Zach Hautala (ICECA), Brett Smithson (ICECA), Wendy Graham (IC Reporter), and Seth Miatech (WICKWIRE).

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Scott Sternhagen, SPA and Principal of Clifton Larson Allen, provided the City's results of FY25 audit. He reported that the City is in good financial condition. He thanked Treasurer Tukesbrey and Deputy Treasurer Pitts for their hard work and dedication to good record keeping. He noted that there was one corrective action, which was a journal entry that needed to be reclassified. It has been adjusted. He concluded that the audit went very well, there was nothing alarming and everything looked normal. He liked how the City has been gradually raising rates for water/sewage, noting that doing a large increase can put a burden on the residents. He applauded the City for their preplanning.

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to accept the FY2025 Audit Report by CLA.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gacia moved with support from Clements to approve the agenda with the addition of Item K – 2015 Western Star Truck. All in favor; Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leonoff moved with support from Powell to approve:

- November 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- December 2, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

All were in favor; Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- IRPD Report

All were in favor; Motion carried.

REPORTS:

DPW Report

Superintendent Steve Saunders was unable to attend due to a family emergency, but there was a written report that was included in the packet.

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

ICECA

- Shopping Initiatives – Hautala noted that Iron County had several successful “Shop Local” or “Shop Small” campaigns in November. He noted that there were many locals and non-locals that participated. He added that some businesses offered Black Friday discounts and that over 28 business participated this year.
- 2026 Visitor Guides – Hautala stated that the guides will be distributed around Iron County, the UP, Northern and Central Wisconsin.
- Business After Hours – Hautala stated that BAH will resume in the new year.
- Christmas in Lights – Hautala gave thanks to the City for participating in the event. He noted that there were 35 floats that registered this year, which is an increase from last year. He noted that it is hard to determine how many people attended the event, as there is no entry fee to tally.

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

County of Iron

Pete Judd stated that dispatch is starting to get healthy. There has been a reduction in overtime, so they are finally making progress. He noted that an assistant prosecutor has been hired. He also suggested that the City elect a representative to go and listen to the recycling meetings. He suggested that the public go and listen as well to educate themselves and to put in their input.

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

Attorney Report (verbal)

Not present.

Manager's Report

- MDNR Conversion –Andreski reported that the UP Aspirus Board has agreed to donate the land to the City, which would satisfy the conversion. The legal team at Aspirus will be drafting up the agreement and a land survey will be conducted.
- New City Hall – Andreski stated that the estimate has been submitted to the MML and we are waiting for a follow up.
- Superintendent – Andreski offered her congratulations to Steve for passing his Michigan Water Operator test. He has now obtained his S3 water operator certificate.

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 Minutes

Leonoff updated Council on the Windsor Center, stating that they are going to be raising some of the rent in the building and will be requesting a renewal for their millage. The millage helps fund recreational activities.

Garcia moved with support from Powell to accept the Windsor Center/Joint Public Building Report as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

City Financial Report – November 2025

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

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

Accounts Payable Report – November 2025

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

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

City Attorney Invoice – November 2025

Garcia moved with support from Leonoff to approve the City Attorney Invoice for November 2025 in the amount of \$3,420.00.

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

OLD BUSINESS

E-Bike Ordinance/Policy

A work session was held where Council went over the ordinance and made changes as needed. Interim City Attorney Goodman implemented the changes and now the ordinance is ready for a public hearing. It was agreed that a public hearing would be scheduled before the next regular meeting.

Garcia moved with support from Powell to approve the E-Bike Ordinance/ Policy updated language and hold the public hearing before the next regular meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Boards and Committees

Dood moved with support from Leonoff to approve the following applicants for the boards they applied for.

Board of Review:

- Terry Verville – 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028
- Shane Marheini - 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028
- Lorena Smith (Alternate) – 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028

DDA:

- Mark Saigh– 4-year term expiring December 31, 2029

Iron River Housing Commission:

- Chris Shamion- 5-year term expiring March 31, 2030
- Julie LaMay – 5-year term expiring March 31, 2031

Parks and Recreation:

- Keith Hamel – 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028
- Benjamin Garcia- 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028

Compensation Commission:

- Kyle Kuenn – 5-year term expiring December 31, 2030 (New Appointment)
- Keith Hamel – 5-year term expiring December 31, 2030

West Iron County Fire Authority Board:

- Paul Mangone – 6-year term expiring February 28, 2031

Planning Commission:

- Benjamin Garcia – 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028 (New Appointment)

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

Holiday Stipend

Leonoff motioned with the support from Powell to approve a \$300 stipend to all full-time and part-time employees as a thank you for their hard work and dedication. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Clements, Garcia, Powell, Leonoff and Dood. Nayes – 0. Motion Carried.

Budget Amendments Set # 1

Andreski noted that most of the budget amendments are due to money being transferred around for the SRF Project.

Garcia moved with support from Clements to approve Budget Amendments Set #1 as presented. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Powell, Leonoff, Clements, Garcia and Dood. Nayes – 0. Motion Carried.

2025 Winter Noxious Weeds

Andreski explained that last month when Council approved the initial noxious weeds, the spreadsheet had an error. While the error did not change the total amount, Andreski would like the corrected spreadsheet to be approved. Garcia motion with the support from Clements to approve the 2025 Winter Noxious Weeds in the amount of \$5,290.00.

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

Transfer of Real Estate to the City of Iron River (402 Washington)

Andreski stated that Interim City Attorney had forwarded to her this agreement, and she has not had a chance to fully discuss it with her prior to the meeting. Andreski noted that the winter tax bills have not been paid and the seller would be liable for those taxes.

Garcia motioned with support from Leonoff to accept the Transfer of Real Estate to the City of Iron River (402 Washington) in the amount of \$1.

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

CY2026 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

Andreski stated that this is a working document, that can be amended as needed. Dood agreed that it is a plan and nothing needs to be changed.

Leonoff motioned with the support from Powell to accept the CY2026 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) as presented.

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

Zoning Administrator/ Code Enforcement

Andreski stated that she has looked at other municipalities and borrowed their language regarding a job description. She had sent her draft to Interim City Attorney Goodman for her to review and had spoken with the Zoning Administrator in Crystal Falls to get a better idea of the positions and responsibilities.

Dood stated that we need to move forward with this and get it posted. He added that once someone is hired, it will free up more of Andreski's time to handle other pressing issues within the City. Dood moved with support from Powell to approve the job description as presented and advertise the position.

Roll Call: Ayes - 4: Clements, Leonoff, Powell and Dood. Nayes – 0. Absent: 1 – Garcia.

Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for MDNR Ice Lake Park Conversion Procedures - WICKWIRE

Miatech stated that there is a lot of work that needs to be completed to finish the conversion issue. He added that a survey needs to be conducted, The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office will have to review for the replacement property and there is some paperwork that needs to be completed as well. The proposal includes this scope of services.

Clements motioned with support from Leonoff to approve Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for MDNR Ice Lake Conversion Procedures – WICKWIRE in the amount of \$9,000.

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

2024 DDA Parkin Lot Improvements Project Pay Request No. 3 and Change Order No. 2

Miatech explained that the project is complete, but we are holding a retainage. The final walkthrough of the project will be completed in the Spring, and this is where issues can be identified and corrected. He noted that there is a known issue with a “birdbath” behind the current City Hall and that work will be rectified.

Leonoff moved with support from Powell to approve the 2024 DDA Parking Lot Improvements Project Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$93,663.19 and Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$7,047.68.

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

2026 CWSRF Sanitary Sewer Improvements – Application for Payment No. 2

Miatech stated that Ruotsala Construction, Inc. has finished for the season and will be back to complete the work with the thaw. This payment is for the work completed through November 30, 2025.

Clements moved with support from Leonoff to approve the 2026 CWSRF Sanitary Sewer Improvements – Application for Payment No. 2 in the amount of \$526,977.82.

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

2015 Western Star Truck

Andreski stated that Leonoff had a brilliant idea to seek help with a known associate of the Cities to find a plow truck. She noted that we need a plow truck. The associate was able to find what he felt was a good deal. This truck was owned by a municipality that rotates their equipment every ten years.

Leonoff noted that the truck has a stainless-steel box and the truck is very similar to what they have now. He noted that there is a wing attached that can be removed.

Dood motioned with support from Powell to approve up to \$50,000 for the 2015 Western Star Plow Truck if it passes inspection or another plow truck that does, which will come out of fund balance.

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

Executive Session:

City Manager Evaluation (Closed Session)

Clements moved with support from Powell to enter Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussions with the City Manager for her yearly evaluation.

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

The Regular Meeting resumed at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Powell, Clements, Leonoff and Dood. Absent: Garcia.

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

Public in Attendance - Vicky Powell, Zach Elenbaas, Martha Burdick, Kyle Kuenn, Erik Ballinger, Timmothy Ballinger, Dave Sankey, Patti Leonoff, Adrienne Baker and Wendy Graham (IC Reporter),

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyle Kuenn wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Sankey expressed his frustration with the City and their plowing schedules. He also suggested that Iron River look into 24-hour Police Service.

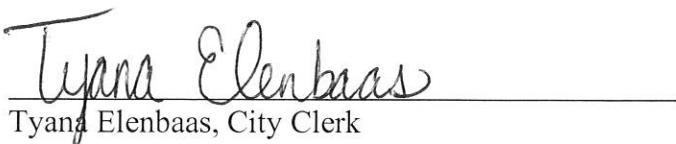
COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Powell wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, safe New Year. Leonoff shared the sentiment.

Dood expressed that he is looking forward to Burdick joining the Council and looks forward to having a women present on the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Clements motioned with support from Powell to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried. Absent: Garcia.



Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk