

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2026
9 AM
Minutes**

Vice Chair Michael Poindexter called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Adrienne Baker, Rodney Dood, Jacob Pietrzak, Mike Hoinowski (left at 10:16 a.m.), and Poindexter.

Absent: Byczek.

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

Public in attendance: Timm Ballinger, Ray Coates and Chief Curt Harrington.

APPROVE AGENDA

Hoinowski motioned with support from Baker to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried. Absent: Byczek.

APPROVE MINUTES

Baker motioned with support from Hoinowski to approve:

- December 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- December 15, 2025, Work Session Minutes

All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Byczek.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Timm Ballinger expressed his concerns with potential conflicts to the appointment of Mayor Dood to the Commission.

Manager's Report

- Winter – Andreski noted that we have had a busy winter with lots of snow to clean up. The DPW has been hard at work keeping the mains clear and parking lots accessible.
- MDOT Local Bridge Program – Andreski stated that the Genesee Bridge is entering its end of life and will need to be repaired. She noted that the grant is a 20 percent match, which would bring the city's contributions to \$87,000. The grant will be presented to City Council for their approval at the next city council meeting.
- MDNR Conversion – Andreski gave an update, stating the land split has been completed and now we are waiting on the agreement.
- Category B Grant – Andreski stated that bids were opened February 11th and both were very good. These bids will be presented to Council at the next meeting.
- T-Mobile Hometown Grant – Andreski stated that this grant is for shovel ready projects within small communities. This would be a perfect grant for the Nelson Field Lighting Project, and it could cover a portion of what is needed to finish the lighting upgrades.
- Goals and Priorities – Andreski stated that last night, the Council held their annual goals and priorities meeting. She believes that she has a good direction as to what to prioritize. She

noted that Blight, selling the current city hall and selling the newly acquired Global Response are high priorities.

- CIP – Andreski noted that the City purchased a Western Star Plow Truck for approximately \$38,000, and it will be put into rotation with our fleet.

OLD BUSINESS

Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance

After some discussion, it was decided that a work session would be held on February 26, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Food Truck Ordinance

Andreski updated the Commission stating that there is currently HB 5451 that is being worked on in congress. This bill, if passed, may prohibit municipalities from collecting fees from food trucks. The bill would require all food trucks to be inspected and issued a QR code which would show compliance.

Interim City Attorney Goodman stated that the Commission can still work on the ordinance, but advised to use language like, “may” when it comes to collecting a fee. She noted that provisions may be added.

Hoinowski suggested not restricting the distance, as it makes for some healthy competition. Dood noted that having the distance stipulation helps prevent those who didn’t pay vendor fees from taking up spots of those who did pay the vendor fees.

Interim City Attorney Goodman stated that a color-coded map could be implemented, to help reduce conflict over placement. She also noted that number seven is a good provision and suggested keeping it.

Andreski noted that number seven and number eleven need to be worked on, to complete the ordinance.

Pietrzak motioned with the support of Poindexter to table the Food Truck Ordinance until next meeting and directed the Commissioners to do their homework and take notes regarding updating the language on the Ordinance.

CY2025 Annual Report

Andreski stated that the Annual Report is due to Council. Baker asked whether there had been a resolution regarding the disputed Home Occupation permit that was awarded and documented in the Annual Report. Andreski explained that the Home Occupation permit application was submitted prior to the adoption of the new Zoning Ordinance; however, the new Zoning Ordinance no longer requires a permit for Home Occupations. Poindexter stated that there was no need to amend the report, as it accurately reflects the events that occurred and the Home Occupation did take place.

Hoinowski motioned with the support of Pietrzak to recommend sending the Annual Report to the City Council. Roll Call: Ayes: 5 – Baker, Dood, Pietrzak, Hoinowski and Poindexter. Nays: 0. Absent: Byczek.

Update Bylaws

Andreski stated that there was some confusion regarding the language in the bylaws related to quorum and voting requirements. The Planning Commission had asked that Interim City Attorney Goodman draft revisions to clarify and clean up the language.

Baker expressed concerns regarding board membership and what would constitute personal matters. She also voiced her dislike of the unexcused absence provision, stating that she preferred the language in the previous bylaws. Interim City Attorney Goodman explained that the former bylaws did not allow excused absences, whereas the revised language permits excused absences. Baker responded that when individuals join a board, they should be committed to attendance. She further noted that absences can prevent the board from conducting business.

Poindexter asked about the quorum. He referred to page 6 under “Meetings 5c” He liked how the members need was clear. He noted that regardless of vacancy 4 members are required for a quorum or two-thirds.

Interim City Attorney Goodman suggested the Commissioner’s take their time and go through the bylaws and make changes as they see fit. Poindexter agreed, suggesting all have their notes at the next meeting in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Chair

Pietrzak moved with support from Baker to appoint Poindexter as Chair for the Planning Commission. Poindexter accepted the nomination. Roll call: Ayes – 4: Dood, Hoinowski, Baker and Pietrzak. Abstained: Poindexter. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Baker moved with support from Pietrzak to appoint Hoinowski as Vice Chair for the Planning Commission. Hoinowski accepted the nomination. Roll call: Ayes – 4: Dood, Pietrzak, Baker and Poindexter. Abstained: Hoinowski. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Set CY2026 Meeting Dates

Hoinowski moved with support from Baker to accept the CY2026 Meeting Dates as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Driveway Ordinance

Andreski explained that when the new Zoning Ordinance was completed, it had come to her attention that the Driveway Ordinance was not included. She provided the Commissioners with the old language regarding driveways.

Pietrzak moved with support from Baker to accept the old Driveway Ordinance as presented and to have a public hearing before the next regularly scheduled meeting in March.

Roll call: Ayes – 5: Dood, Hoinowski, Baker, Pietrzak and Poindexter. Nays – 0. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Michigan Planner – American Planning Association

Andreski stated that this publication is a great training tool that could be utilized by the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals members. She noted that this could be used for training credits as well.

Hoinowski moved with support from Baker to subscribe to the Michigan Planner in the amount of \$775.00. Roll Call: Ayes – 5: Dood, Pietrzak, Baker, Hoinowski and Poindexter. Nays – 0. All in favor; Motion Carried.

CY2027 CIP

Andreski stated that the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is currently a working draft and will be submitted to Council at the end of the year. She noted that additional streets may be added, as some streets have been moved to the 2026 CIP due to the MDOT Category B grant.

Baker inquired about the status of body cameras for the police department. Andreski explained that there is a semiannual fee exceeding \$5,000 associated with the program. As a result, the expense must be included in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), since any purchase over \$5,000 is required to be part of the CIP.

Dood noted that the Voting Tabulators had been added to the CIP. He explained that the State historically replaced the machines, but with the budget being volatile, there may be no funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Timm Ballinger again expressed his concerns with potential conflicts to the appointment of Mayor Dood to the Commission. He questioned the validity of the meeting, as he believes Mayor Dood's participation is a violation of the City Charter.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Hoinowski asked about the responsibilities of fire hydrants, noting that most are inaccessible. Andreski noted that former City Manager Perry Franzoi had started an "adopt a fire hydrant" program and it has fallen off to the wayside. Interim City Attorney


Baker asked about going into closed session regarding the appointment of Mayor Dood and its possible violation against the City Charter. She explained that she does not believe that we are in violation and saw that the mayor is allowed to sit on any board.

Poindexter stated that the Commission will investigate the validity of Mayor Doods appointment

Baker also emphasized the importance of ensuring that public comment is conducted in accordance with the agenda guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

Hoinowski with the support of Baker adjourned at 10:30 a.m. All in favor; Motion Carried. Absent: Byczek and Hoinowski.



Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk