

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

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, and Poindexter.
Absent: Byczek.

Also present: City Manager Rachel Andreski and City Clerk Tyana Elenbaas

Public in attendance: Timm Ballinger and Becky Flint (Northpointe Behavioral Healthcare System).

APPROVE AGENDA

Baker asked that the Driveway Ordinance be moved to Item A under Old Business. Baker motioned with support from Pietrzak to approve the agenda with the change to Old Business. All in favor; Motion Carried. Absent: Byczek.

APPROVE MINUTES

Baker motioned with support from Dood to approve:

- February 12, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 26, 2026, Work Session Minutes with changes to the word “work and “free” under the Rental Registration paragraph.

All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Byczek.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Timm Ballinger expressed his concerns with the Bylaws and how communications are handled from the public. He stated that all communications should be given to the Chair. He also stated his concerns regarding the potential conflicts with the appointment of Mayor Dood to the Commission.

Manager’s Report

- CIP – Andreski noted that there was an unexpected water main leak at Wellhouse 1 and 2. The leak has been addressed and fixed in compliance with EGLE. It was determined that when the water line was initially installed, the backfill was improper. WICKWIRE will be working on a design to correct the issue, and it will be added if approved to the Street Improvements project.
- FY2027 Community Project Funding Requests – Annually Congress is allowed to submit projects for a one- year funding during the House Appropriations process. With the help of WICKWIRE, we have applied for our EGLE DWSRF Drinking Water System Improvements Project through the Interior and Environment Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Account. This is 80% with a 20% local match. The due date was March 6, 2026, and we will be notified in May if we were successful.
- Appropriations Request – Andreski informed the Commission that Senator Gary Peters and Senator Elisa Slotkin are accepting appropriation requests. The deadline is March 27, 2026.

This is a 75% grant with a 25% match. These funds will be used to purchase a new route plow truck and loader.

Baker stated that she has noticed heaving in front of Diane Adams' house and is worried it might be a big issue if not fixed. Andreski stated that she will have the DPW investigate to make sure no issues arise from it.

Pietrzak motioned with the support of Hoinowski to accept the Zoning Administrator's report as presented. All in favor; motion carried. Absent: Byczek.

OLD BUSINESS

Driveway Ordinance

Andreski stated that she reached out to Civic Plus and the codified ordinances will be published on our website in the next week or two. She also spoke with John Locoangeli regarding the Driveway ordinance, and he updated the language in the ordinance.

Baker suggested "Code Violation" instead of saying "nuisance" in terms of properties.

Dood motioned with the support of Baker to table the Driveway Ordinance until Interim City Attorney Goodman can review the new Driveway Ordinance language.

Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance

A work session will be held on March 26, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Food Truck Ordinance

Andreski updated the Commission stating that there is currently HB 5451/5450 that is being worked on in *the legislature* 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.

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

Poindexter stated that the Food Truck Ordinance, along with the Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance can be reviewed further at the March 26, 2026, work session. All in favor; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaw Change – Term Limits

Baker suggested term limits regarding the Bylaws. She believes that progress isn't consistent. She suggested limiting consecutive terms and no more than 5 years in leadership, particularly in the chair and vice chair role.

Hoinowski expressed concern over the limitations, stating that it is hard enough to find citizens to sit on the Commission. Dood echoed Hoinowski's concerns.

Baker continued that if you have the same people on the boards, then there are no new ideas.

Baker motioned to alter language in Section 4A to include: No officer may be elected to serve for unspecified years, for an unspecified maximum year. Due to the lack of support, the motion failed.

Hoinowski suggested that Baker change the verbiage to allow for anyone who wants to be chair to be allowed.

Poindexter suggested that Baker revisit her language and she can resubmit it for a future agenda for the Commission to review.

Chicken Ordinance Revisions

Baker stated that she spoke at the Public Comment when the Chicken Ordinance was being presented. She expressed her disappointment with having to seek permission from adjacent neighbors annually. She also stated that restrictions on where the coops may be located are troubling. She would like to see accommodation for the residents who have side lots as they technically don't have a backyard.

Poindexter stated that having neighbors sign off annually is a way to hold owners accountable.

Poindexter motioned with the support of Baker to table the Chicken Ordinance Revisions until the next meeting so that the Commissioners may review the proposed changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Timm Ballinger stated that this meeting was good and productive. He appreciated the Commissioners doing a good job.

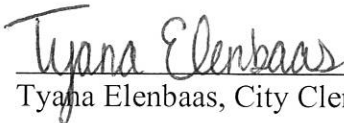
COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Hoinowski thanked Ballinger for his kind words.

Poindexter stated that he had investigated the alleged violation of the Mayor sitting on the Planning Commission and found no merit to it. He stated that the Charter states that the mayor may sit on any board. Andreski stated that this is why we are going through the bylaws, because there are discrepancies from the bylaws to the charter.

ADJOURNMENT

Hoinowski with the support of Pietrzak adjourned at 10:19 a.m. All in favor; Motion Carried.
Absent: Byczek.



Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk