

**IRON RIVER CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
10:00 AM
Minutes**

Call to Order – Mayor Dennis Powell called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. The meeting was held via Zoom Video Conferencing and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call – Rodney Dood, Anthony Clements, Benjamin Garcia (10:19a.m.), Ronjo Leonoff and Powell.

Absent – None.

Also Present – City Manager Rachel Andreski, Attorney Mark Tousignant, Treasurer Amanda Tukesbrey, Chief Curtis Bristol, and Deputy Treasurer Bernadette Coates.

Public in Attendance

Tyana Elenbaas, Bret Berg, Shawn Phenow, Trenise B and Keith Hamel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee Update – Recreational Marihuana Establishments

Dood explained the Committee had presented a draft of the Marihuana Ordinance for Council's review. He said it is the Committee's recommendation to move forward with the next step of publishing a notice for a public hearing.

Dood moved with support from Clements to publish a notice for a public hearing and special meeting on March 10th beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Roll call: Ayes – 4: Leonoff, Clements, Dood and Powell. Nays – 0: Absent – 1: Garcia.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Council – Goals and Priorities

Andreski stated she provided all Members a form looking for guidance and direction as to what Council would like to see happen within the City. She said depending on the size of the project (goal) she would like to have them pick out the top three or four items they would like to see get accomplished this year. Powell added the projects would depend on funding. Dood said several people had the same projects such as the Master Plan and Ice Lake Park listed. He also said it would be nice to meet with the DPW and create a 20-year plan for equipment. Andreski agreed stating one of the plow trucks is getting frequent repairs and will need to be replaced, another needs a new box. She said she has been speaking with Clements about this and having a plan in place would be nice. Garcia agreed because he said the City rents/borrows a bucket truck to fix the lights in the parking lots. Garcia suggested the possibility of hiring a part time DPW worker after the City starts receiving revenue from the marihuana businesses. Other items discussed were the Master Plan that has been on hold during the pandemic, a deer hunt, Ice Lake Park improvements, Apple Blossom Trail boardwalk, Cedar Avenue storm drain, Wayfinding signs, completion of an alley study, sidewalks and blight.

Andreski informed Council the City is in non-compliance with the MERS B4 pension funding. The City pension should be funded at a minimum of 60 percent, currently it is funded at 52.3 percent. In 2019 it was funded at 52.2 percent. The City contribution was increased recently but it is not nearly enough to reach the minimum. Andreski and Tukesbrey had a phone conference with the State and were told the City has 45 days to submit a waiver to correct the plan. It was determined there are two phases, one would be to submit a waiver yearly with a limit of four years. The other option is to submit a corrective action plan which would be more lenient and flexible, and the State would work with the City to gain compliance. The City would not be able to make up the funding required in the four-year limit to reach 60 percent. The next step would be contacting MERS to discuss a plan. Andreski stated it may be necessary to use the marihuana revenue for this.

Garcia suggested focusing on priorities that could be done administratively without any financial burden such as the deer hunt and selling unused equipment.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Elenbaas complimented Council on a good job and they are on the right track with their plans.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Leonoff thanked the Committee for working on the ordinance and getting it to Council in a timely manner. He also complimented the DPW for a good job done in clearing the streets, especially by the school.

Mayor Powell adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.


Bernadette Coates, Deputy Treasurer