

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 11, 2021
9 AM
Minutes**

Chairman Jere Fritsche 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.

Roll Call: Pete Djupe, Dennis Powell, Robert Byczek, Jr. and Fritsche.
Absent: Jim Wester.

Also present: Interim City Manager/Clerk Rachel Andreski and Deputy Treasurer Bernadette Coates.

Public in attendance:
None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Djupe moved with support from Byczek to approve the Agenda with the addition to New Business d. Marihuana Use Ordinance and moving c. Conditional Use Permit (sign) – Nicole Hebert up on the Agenda. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent - Wester.

APPROVE MINUTES

Powell moved with support from Djupe to approve the October 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent – Wester.

NEW BUSINESS

Conditional Use Permit (sign) – Nicole Hebert – Byczek stated in the future, all permits need to be complete and accurately detailed before the Commission should consider any approval.

Byczek moved with support from Djupe to allow the temporary sign placement in accordance with Ordinance 151.176 (B)(1) (up to four 30-day periods). All in favor; Motion carried. Absent – Wester.

MANAGER’S REPORT – Andreski reported to the Commission that Council had approved the Recreational Marihuana Use Ordinance. She said six licenses would be allowed. She said the Committee is now working on a scoring matrix and application that will be presented at the Council meeting in April. Andreski explained this is just the beginning of what Council believes to be acceptable and the process could evolve after time.

Andreski said the RRC had also rolled out a new program called RRC 2.0. It is a program revamping of the original. She said there are three levels to the program; Engaged, Essential and Certified. Christopher Germain and Andreski feel the best fitting program for the City is the Essential Program. She will be attending a webinar for more information. Byczek moved with support from Djupe to certify the City at the Essential Level. All were in favor. Motion carried. Absent - Wester.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

Master Plan:

Action Plan – After discussing the Corner Posts, it was decided to add to the list:

- 10) Beautification Project
 - a. Sidewalks
 - b. Grass Strip in right of ways between road and sidewalk
 - c. Flowers
 - d. Trees
- 11) City Promotions
 - a. Calendars
 - b. Piggy Banks
 - c. T-shirts
- 12) Redefine Business District

A work session would be scheduled for March 20th or March 27th depending on the availability of the other groups and facilitator.

CIP CY20:

Andreski updated Members that the Nanaimo Park Drainage Project had started, and completion may be by the week's end. She said the Cedar Street Project was out for bids and are due on March 16th. She said the work would start this summer but would not be paid out until after the new fiscal year. Andreski said she spoke with the owner of the green house on the corner of Washington and US2. Their plan is to tear down the house and bring gravel into the parking lot on Cedar Street this year and pave the parking lot next year.

Andreski said the Nanaimo Park Pavilion roof had been completed and the Parks and Recreation Committee are looking to get the bathroom stalls installed. Well House #2 Roof did not get done at the time the Nanaimo Pavilion Roof was done and now, the DPW will probably do it.

Andreski explained to Members there is a hiccup with the easement on 1st Street related to the 4th Avenue Water Project. Instead of dealing with the State to run the line along the ORV trail, the previous City Manager chose to work with the property owner and now that he is gone, GEI was questioning the progress with the situation. The property owner had since retained legal counsel and has several demands to grant the easement. She said, in the meantime, F.A. Industrial Services will start the project and save that portion for the end.

CIP CY21: -

Andreski said the Holder and the One Ton Dually Truck could be added to the Vehicle list. She said a new plow truck for the DPW will also need to be added. She said the DPW is working on an

inventory list of all equipment to better determine what other equipment will need replacing. After discussion, an electric charging station will also be added.

Andreski explained the additions to the Homer Road Project Plan may be fully financed with the Category B Funds from MDOT. She said personnel changes have made doing all the additions impossible without the City putting forth more funding and the expense could be an additional \$170,000 to complete the project. Andreski will update CIP21 list and create a new CIP22 list for April's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Chair and Vice-Chairpersons – Djupe moved with support from Powell to continue with the current Chair and Vice-Chairpersons, Fritsche and Byczek respectively. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent – Wester.

Set CY21 Meeting Schedule – Djupe moved with support from Powell to accept the CY21 Meeting Schedule as presented. Djupe, Powell and Fritsche were in favor, Byczek was not in favor. Motion carried. Absent – Wester.

Marihuana Use Ordinance – Byczek moved with support from Djupe to have Mark Tousignant or Dennis Tousignant present for the next meeting. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent – Wester.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Djupe said Dr. Stan Holm had written a term paper in 1952 on the history of Nelson Field and he will be working with the Iron County Historical Museum on publishing it.

ADJOURNMENT

Fritsche adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.


Bernadette Coates, Deputy Treasurer