

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
City Hall Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Independence City Council was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Councilors Spencer, Betts, McCoy and Grotting

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Assistant to Administrator
Horner, Attorney Bob Vose

VISITORS: Gary Kroells

4. ****Consent Agenda****

All items listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Council and will be acted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- a. Approval of City Council Minutes from the October 5, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable (Checks Numbered 20773-20797).
- c. 2021 Third Quarter Building Permit Summary – For Information Only.

Motion by Betts, second by Spencer to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer, Grotting, McCoy and Betts. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

5. SET AGENDA – ANYONE NOT ON THE AGENDA CAN BE PLACED UNDER OPEN/MISC.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Grotting attended the following meetings:

- None

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Highway 12 Corridor Study

McCoy attended the following meetings:

- Loretto Fire Department

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Highway 12 Corridor Study

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Loretto Fire Dept.
- Senior Community Services - virtual
- Orono Foundation Recognition
- Maple Plain Chamber of Commerce
- Memorial Service for Pat Raycraft of MPFC
- NLC Energy Committee
- Toward Zero Death (TZD)
- Highway 55 Corridor Coalition
- Fund Raiser for Osmek & Hertaus (Osmek is President of Caucus)
- Highway 12 Corridor Study

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

- High Speed Internet

7. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Gary Kroells: Presentation of the September 2021 Activity Report.

a. Highway 12 Corridor Study – Overview and Discussion

Kroells discusses the September 2021 report. See full report for details.

Spencer says that Deephaven mentioned they had a lot of break-ins and asked if we had anything here. Kroells we have not been experiencing this in Independence/Maple Plain area.

Johnson asks what RCI stands for. Kroells says it is Restricted Controlled Intersection. Kroells explains the Hwy 12 corridor study. It goes from County Road 90 to County Line Road. This is the only section that has not been improved. Johnson has helped get us funding to conduct this study with the transportation commissioner that set aside \$2 million. Options were the roundabout at 90, the roundabout at 92 and the overpass that will be completed next year. They will have a virtual open house tonight. The main goal is to prevent cross-over crashes, so they proposed various options such as a concrete median divider or depressed median. Also, possible solutions at intersections were discussed. A roundabout was also mentioned for Hwy 12 and Lake Haughey. They have discussed realigning Copeland and Hitsman Rd. If they added another roundabout this would restrict mobility.

Johnson asks about the resident on the North side of Hwy 12 and if they would hook up to Valley Road instead of Hwy 12. Kaltsas says that they talked about it with the resident, and it was very costly for the residents to do this.

Kroells says Wednesday, October 27th they are holding a virtual office hours from 3:00-3:30pm and 6:00-6:30pm to have further discussions on this. Kaltsas says we solicited the funding for this and we got it. We do these studies then go out and get funding, but until you have the study, you can't get the money to do the work.

8. High Speed Data/Internet Expansion Update

Kaltsas explains the high-speed internet update. He had meetings with Mediacom and Midco. The city was successful in securing a \$250k grant with Mediacom to light up the fiber on County Road 6. It is fulling installed and 105 residents now have access to high-speed internet. Now we are looking to expand on that project and utilize some of our AARP funding to allow more residents access to high-speed internet on the Minnetrista border, such as Game Farm Rd and Ingerson, which would be about 30 residents. Then he asks about the rest of the area. There is about a 10-mile run of fiber that could be a potential possibility that would allow 150 households service for high-speed data. This is about a \$850k project. The grant would allow a 50% match from the state and a 10% local match. This would be fiber to the home which there is no limitations on the run that they will do from the street to the house. There could be a limitation of run to the home otherwise. They need to get a grant for funding, but this is feasible.

With Midco, they are interested in areas that are not served for competition reasons. Around the lakes and expanding North of Hwy 12 would be the best areas. Hwy 12 and County Line Rd and the West side of Nelson Rd shown in pink on the map, SpaceX was granted this area with high-speed data. They are supposed to launch yet this year. Grotting asks what about the Xtratyme tower servicing the area and how the speeds compare. Kaltsas explains the problem is that they are overwhelmed with requests. Density is our limiting factor. Johnson says this is good information and to keep at it. We have 1 ½ years to use the funds. Grotting asks how that compares to a build out ordinance like Medina. Kaltsas will research that further.

9. Open/Misc.

10. Adjourn.

Motion by McCoy, second by Grotting to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Ayes: Johnson, Grotting, Betts, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: McCoy. None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amber Simon / Recording Secretary