

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY JULY 21, 2021–7:00 A.M.
(Public Works Garage & Virtual)

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a work session of the Independence City Council was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 7:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Councilors Betts, Spencer, Grotting, and McCoy
ABSENT: None
STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Assistant to Administrator Horner,
VISITORS: WHPS Chief Kroells, Steve McDonald (ABDO)

3. General Administration

- a. 2022 Budget/Finance
 - o Preliminary Budget and Levy Review/Discussion
 - Police/Fire Budget Updates
- b. City Hall Facility Renovations Update and WHPS/PW Accessory Building Construction
- c. American Rescue Plan Act – Covid Funding Allocation Discussion

Kaltsas stated the goal the City's been trying to achieve is to keep the tax rate flat. Kaltsas has started putting together Council's increase. We're funding a Public Works capital budget of \$60,000. We're also continuing to fund the streets for drain tiling and seal coating. Betts asked about what is left on the streets this year. Kaltsas said we are still going to stripe Providence, and tiling Copeland.

Kaltsas talked about the staffing changes made within the City. We will have fulltime presence at the front window, so we've added a part time admin staff.

Kroells addressed the police budget. He's working with ABDO now and they're looking at an 11% increase. We had a \$34,000 surplus which is no longer available, no longer have crime prevention dollars, no longer have drug task force money, and there was a 40% increase in workers comp. We're at 7-8% reserves, which is under the 10% we like to keep. He feels there's a problem in hiring officers in the area. He doesn't want his officers to leave so feels it's important to keep them. Johnson asked about health insurance, which saw a 6% increase. Spencer asked if we could use some COVID dollars for WHPS. Kaltsas said we can use COVID for infrastructure, like data. Kaltsas reminded us that the majority of our budgets is personnel. Spencer asked about any equipment replacement. Kaltsas said he was contacted about doing another \$10,000,000 conduit bond. Betts noted the new building will require fewer repairs and asked about the North Memorial building. Kaltsas said they were meeting with them that day.

Johnson asked about the renovation update. Kaltsas said we are to have a punch list walk through next week and get staff back in there to work. Kaltsas gave a staffing update. We've hired Amber Simon as the

Administrative Assistant and her husband Matt Simon for Public Works. We've also hired Linda Johnson as part time Admin.

Johnson inquired about the Comp Plan, and Kaltsas said he's still working with MetCouncil to accept his latest proposal on density. They want us to have a density that no one in Independence wants, which is no more than 2.7-3 units per acre. Medina has a 130 townhome area going in by Holiday Gas Station. Kaltsas said we're trying to keep them around 3 in the Jerde tree farm area. There are still a lot of Cities not done with their Comp Plans. We get to drive land use.

Steve MacDonald apologized for being late. He concurred Kroells has a hurdle to get his budget approved.

Kaltsas said there was no Planning Commission meeting last night due to lack of quorum. We want to bring the interested alternate Planning Commissioners in for the Council to meet. So for the Council meeting August 3rd we'll see if either or both of them are able to come to the meeting. This meeting will be at 5:00. Spencer asked about changing the Planning Commission meeting, and Kaltsas will find out today when we would be able to have an alternate meeting.

Kaltsas said we'll tweak the budget and will do another workshop in August.

The Workshop adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Horner/ Recording Secretary