MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION OF THE

INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, NOvember 3, 2021–4:30 P.M.

(City Hall Chambers)

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 4:30 p.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, Attorney Bob Vose

1. General Administration
   1. 2022 Budget/Finance
      * Preliminary Budget and Levy Review/Discussion
        + Police/Fire Budget Updates
   2. City Hall Facility Renovations Updates
   3. American Rescue Plan Act – Covid Funding Allocation Discussion

Kaltsas asked if there was a better fire model for the City of Independence. He explained that fire services are one of the most expensive items that our residents are paying for. Independence pays a lot of overlap with mutual calls, paying Delano a per service fee, and Loretto has a high expense in their medicals. Johnson asked if the Medina meeting was a re-start. McCoy said that Long Lake and Orono have to resolve their issues first. Johnson said that Maple Plain doesn’t cover any of the Orono costs. It doesn’t seem like Loretto, and Hamel want to share much. Kaltsas asked if we can save money in a capital investment. It was a cost savings for Maple Plain and Loretto, but it wasn’t huge for us because we didn’t have to buy different trucks for different cities. Kroells stated that our boundaries haven’t been reviewed in 25 years. We should discuss to change the boundaries and give more to Maple Plain and Loretto. Kaltsas said we will keep plugging away at this. There could be efficiencies with these models. McCoy said if Hamel came into our district, the costs would go down. It would be more efficient. Kaltsas stated that since the law changed, we can develop a district. The municipals would have to initiate this. The Fire District has taxing authority that is made up by the elected officials. Johnson said it is kind of like the watersheds.

Regarding the WHPS and Public Works garage update, Kaltsas said we have a plan from BKV that was crazy expensive, so he is working with BV construction. He met with North Memorial, and they are ready to sign on with us. It would be $1,500 per month from them, and we are giving them what they want. Johnson asked what the total was that we got for conduit. Kaltsas said it was $137,000. If Council is supportive, Kaltsas will get the numbers together. Kroells said this is something that would be very valuable for our police officers. Spencer asked if the $600,000 include everything. Kaltsas said it doesn’t include grading, etc. The numbers are all over. He said he is guessing about $50k. Spencer said the relief funds are for emergencies, but we can argue this is an improvement. He asked if the garage is sized right or if we could downsize at all. Kaltsas said we could take out 16’ and it would save about $50k. They will be posts, not footings, so it could be put in during the Winter months. Spencer said he is in favor of getting this going, but they also need a new public works roof, etc. Kaltsas said steel could come down and he would re-price it. Grotting asked if North Memorial would relocate someplace out here. Kaltsas said yes, he informed them that they should come out here. Betts asked if this would benefit Delano. Kaltsas said no, we are their furthest city. Spencer said we could build it so it can easily be added on to in the near future. We could see about taking 16’ off the back side.

Kaltsas explains that ARPA topic is high speed internet. Mediacom high speed internet project would start on at Polo Club Road, Wild Oak Trail, Turner, County Road 92, Pioneer Creek West to Copeland Rd and North to Hwy 12. It would run across 12 and Sount on Nelson Rd. This project would cost $800k. We would need federal funding for this. Mediacom would need 10% of the funds from us. Midco is also interested in out City.

Grotting said we will need to get the mile contribution from LMCC. Johnson said they did the project on County Rd 6. Grotting said they will have to pay close attention to the grant. He asked what the cable equipment of voltage drop is. Johnson said residents would be hooking onto fiber down Wild Oak Trail. Kaltsas said they’d go from Wild Oak and can make this connection.

Vose said federal funds can be used for Broadband but they are using competitive companies. LMCC is an entity that provided franchise for Mediacom. This is an ordinance. Traditional companies are using fiber. The longer these are, the more likely they are to lose power. Betts asked what about Xtratyme. Kaltsas said they are wireless. Grotting said we are on the backburner with them. Medina got built out. Kaltsas said he will talk to multiple providers. Johnson said the Department of Agriculture has some grant money for broadband. Kaltsas said he things that is outside out boundaries.

The Workshop adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Simon/ Recording Secretary