

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.
City Hall Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Spencer called the Tuesday, May 20, 2025 meeting of the Independence City Council to order at 6:32 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll Call

Mayor Spencer noted that Council Members Fisher and Grotting were present, while Council Members McCoy and Betts were absent. A quorum was established.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Spencer presented the Consent Agenda, which included approval of the City Council minutes from the May 6, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting and approval of Accounts Payable (Batch #1; Checks Numbered 23644-23664 and Batch #2, Checks Numbered 23665-23678).

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Grotting, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Set Agenda

Mayor Spencer asked if anyone had anything to add to the agenda. No additions were made.

Reports of Boards and Committees by Council and Staff

Council Member Fisher's Report

Council Member Fisher reported attending an LMCC meeting on May 8. He noted that the LMCC was facing financial challenges and considering options, including the possibility of Jim stepping down at the end of the year. Fisher also mentioned ongoing efforts to sell the LMCC building, with no active buyer at present. He suggested that reducing the price might be necessary to complete the sale.

Council Member Grotting's Report

Council Member Grotting reported attending the Maple Plain Fire Awards ceremony on May 9.

Staff Report

Kaltsas reported that there was nothing significant to record beyond Amber's clerk training. Mayor Spencer congratulated Amber on completing her clerk's training.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Spencer reported attending the Maple Plain Fire Department awards ceremony and the Northwest League meeting on May 14. He also mentioned receiving a letter from the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, stating that West Hennepin Public Safety Department had passed a recent review.

The Mayor discussed a request from Kelly Morrison's office for input on funding requests for federal road reconstruction. He noted that the city, with help from staff, quickly submitted information regarding Highway 12 to Kelly's office on behalf of both Independence and Maple Plain.

West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Matthew DuRose: Presentation of the April 2025 Activity Report

Director Matthew DuRose presented the April 2025 activity report for West Hennepin Public Safety. He reported a 7% increase in calls for service compared to the previous year, with an uptick in traffic-related incidents due to officers focusing on traffic enforcement and education.

DuRose highlighted three DWI arrests and an incident involving an abandoned camper in a ditch. He explained how social media was used to track down the camper's owner, who then paid for the tow bill.

The Director also mentioned a case inadvertently left off the report, where West Hennepin assisted Edina police in apprehending a suspect involved in a firearms incident at a hospital on April 22. He noted that felony charges against the individual were dismissed by the Hennepin County attorney's office and sent to the Edina city attorney for consideration of non-felony offenses.

Mayor Spencer raised concerns about speeding in residential areas and suggested the use of temporary speed bumps or signage to address the issue. Director DuRose responded that the department has technology to set up speed signs that can operate in "ghost mode" to gather data without encouraging drivers to set high scores. He mentioned that they were already aware of speed complaints on Budd Street and encouraged reporting of problem areas so they could allocate resources effectively.

Council Member Grotting inquired about reporting online crimes, specifically mentioning a recent incident involving his company's EIN number being used in a payroll scam. Director DuRose advised reporting such incidents to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or through IC3.gov, as local law enforcement typically doesn't have the resources to investigate these types of crimes.

Open/Misc.

No items were discussed under this agenda item.

Adjourn

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Grotting, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46pm