

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025 – 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 Spencer at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Spencer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Spencer, McCoy, Betts, Fisher, Grotting

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Services Director Simon,
Public Works Supervisor Ben Lehman, Chief DuRose

VISITORS: See Sign-in sheet

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 July 15, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable (Batch #1; Checks Numbered 23853-23873 and Batch #2, Checks Numbered 23874-23883).
- c. Large Assembly Permit: Twin City Polo Club – Private Wedding – August 30, 2025.

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Betts to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: Spencer, McCoy, Betts, Grotting and Fisher. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 5-0

5. Set Agenda – Anyone Not on the Agenda can be Placed Under Open/Misc.

6. Reports of Boards and Committees by Council and Staff.

Fisher attended the following meetings:

- LMCC (received and offer), Night to Unite (4 houses)

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Night to Unite (3 houses)

McCoy attended the following meetings:

- Night to Unite

- Orono Rotary

Grotting attended the following meetings:

- Night to Unite (3 houses)

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Night to Unite (4 houses)
- New officer Interviews
- Hennepin County Zoom meeting regarding natural resources and a demonstration of an app they're designing
- Meeting with Metropolitan Council and Mark to discuss the sewer line on Baker Park Road
- Noted at the golf fundraiser and softball game scheduled for August 18th were canceled, with the softball game rescheduled for August 26th.

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

- Hennepin County grant meeting for Youth Sports opportunities

7. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Matthew DuRose: Presentation of the July 2025 Activity Report.

Chief Matt DuRose presented the July 2025 activity report for West Hennepin Public Safety. He noted a slight uptick in calls for service compared to the previous year, attributing much of it to increased traffic enforcement. He highlighted four DWI cases and a couple of theft cases from the past month.

Chief DuRose thanked the community for their Night to Unite participation, mentioning it was his first time attending as chief and that he enjoyed meeting community members outside of calls.

He also mentioned that the department is currently backgrounding one candidate for their vacant full-time police position, describing the candidate as a recent local graduate with no police experience but expressing confidence in their potential.

Mayor Spencer thanked the officers for their efforts to attend all the Night to Unite parties, emphasizing the importance of this event for connecting officers with the community.

8. Lake Independence - Ordinance No. 915.19 Slow no wake zone on Lake Independence.

- a. The City Council will discuss a possible ordinance amendment to change or add provisions to the current slow no wake zone ordinance for Lake Independence. Changes that may be considered include establishing a shoreland setback or buffer zone for certain types of watercrafts. Please note that no formal action is proposed to occur at this meeting.

Mayor Spencer opened a public hearing regarding the slow no wake zone on Lake Independence. He explained the current ordinance and noted that various individuals had requested considering an amendment. He outlined the public hearing process, encouraging those who wished to speak to approach the microphone, introduce themselves by name and address, and keep their comments to approximately 3 minutes. He emphasized that this meeting was more for listening than debating and encouraged respectful dialogue.

The following residents provided comments:

Mitchell Shields (3155 Lakeshore Avenue, Medina):

- Shared a photo of his heavily sandbagged lakeshore.
- Expressed concerns about erosion caused by large waves, even from boats operating in the middle of the lake and their impact on landscaping.
- Highlighted safety concerns for pontoons, kayaks, and canoes due to unexpected large waves.
- Supported the current no-wake requirement, appreciating its impact on the experience of the lake.
- Requested to be kept informed of future discussions, noting a lack of prior communication about the meeting.

Charlie Roers (2914 Lindgren Lane):

- Expressed frustration with the wake zones over the past two years, affecting family time and use of the lake for water sports.
- Suggested a shoreline setback of 300-500 feet could be beneficial to allow balanced use of the lake.
- Mentioned spending time on Lake Sarah for summer activities due to current restrictions on Lake Independence.

Drew Roers (2914 Lindgren Lane):

- Expressed disappointment in not being able to use the lake for the last two summers due to restrictions.
- Suggested a setback of 300-500 feet from shore would facilitate the use of the center of the lake for water sports, protecting shorelines yet allowing for enjoyment of the lake.

Eric Pemberton (2877 Lakeshore Avenue, Medina):

- Recently moved to the lake, acquiring watercraft based on expectations of recreational use, only to find restrictions burdensome.
- Expressed frustration with current restrictions impacting personal and family enjoyment.
- Suggested a 300-foot offset for jet skis and a 500-foot offset for wake boats during high water levels to allow for more proactive recreational use.

Beth Watkins (1155 Drake Court and 2894 Lindgren Lane):

- Purchased property on the lake three years ago and expressed love for the area but frustration with ongoing restrictions limiting recreational use.

- Suggested a reasonable setback, recognizing the need for both safety and recreational compromise, emphasizing the family and social opportunities provided by the lake.

Randy Smasal (2909 Lindgren Lane):

- Suggested several considerations for the council:
 - Wind as a dominant factor causing erosion.
 - High watermark as an arbitrary setting that may not entirely prevent erosion.
 - A potential compromise of a 300-500 foot setback applied consistently to allow both shoreline protection and boating activities.
- Emphasized the importance of family recreation time on the lake.

Darren Kracht (3162 Independence Road):

- Moved to the lake in 2021 and had dredged their channel due to low water levels at the time.
- Expressed frustration with restrictions over the past couple of years, urging a review of the water level trigger for activating restrictions.
- Supported a 300-foot setback for all boats and potentially 500 feet for wake boats as a compromise to allow boating use while protecting shorelines.

Kristen Blanck (5010 South Lake Shore Drive):

- Thanked the city for efforts in removing Lake Independence from the impaired waters list.
- Supported some form of compromise, but raised concerns about high water levels and the potential for damage.
- Emphasized the need to consider the unique drainage characteristics of the lake and suggested different restrictions for various types of watercraft.

Jeff Garthwaite (2937 Lakeshore, Medina):

- Expressed sadness over the no-wake restrictions impacting family enjoyment of the lake.
- Shared experiences of family members being cited for minor speed infractions during the no-wake period, which he found discouraging.
- Suggested a 300-foot offset when water levels are high to balance protection and enjoyment.

Laura Pemberton (2877 Lakeshore Avenue):

- Suggested raising the water level threshold that triggers the no-wake zone, as the current level seems too restrictive.
- Expressed concern over drought-high water cycles leading to extended periods of restrictions.
- Highlighted the importance of maintaining lake access as a public good, which is broader than just the residents and should include others who use public access points like the campground.

Following the public hearing, Mayor Spencer summarized additional comments received via email, which included various suggestions for setbacks, trigger levels, and enforcement of regulations. Chris Dahlberg, representing the Lake Independence Citizens Association (LICA), clarified that the survey results mentioned were preliminary and encouraged more participation. He also promoted LICA membership and mentioned ongoing collaborative projects to benefit Lake Independence, such as

weed management and outlet channel improvements. Mayor Spencer encouraged residents to get involved with LICA and stay informed about all issues concerning Lake Independence, beyond just recreation.

Motion by McCoy, seconded by Betts to close the public hearing. Ayes: Spencer, McCoy, Betts, Grotting and Fisher. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 5-0

9. Cardinal Way – Mill and Overlay Project.

- a. Consider approval of the proposal from GMH Asphalt Corporation to Mill and Overlay Cardinal Way. The City received funding from Hennepin County to complete this project as a part of the County Road 92 Jurisdictional Transfer.

Mark Kaltsas presented information on the Cardinal Way Mill and Overlay Project. He explained that this project was part of the jurisdictional transfer agreement with Hennepin County in 2022, where the county provided funding to bring the roadway up to a 15-year service life standard.

Kaltsas reported that they had obtained bids in 2024 for a 2025 project, and despite staffing changes, they were able to maintain the pricing. The project would consist of a full 3-inch mill and 3-inch overlay on the portion of the former County Road 92, now known as Cardinal Way.

Two bids were received:

1. GMH Asphalt: \$108,930
2. Bituminous Roadways: \$137,300

Kaltsas noted that the county had paid the city \$107,600 for the project, leaving a \$1,300 gap that could be covered by the city's budgeted road balance.

Motion by Spencer, seconded by Fisher to approve the proposal for the mill and overlay of Cardinal Way to GMH Asphalt for \$108,930. Ayes: Spencer, McCoy, Betts, Grotting and Fisher. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 5-0

10. Open.Misc.

11. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Grotting, seconded by Councilmember McCoy. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amber Simon/ Recording Secretary