

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016 –7:00 A.M.

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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Postponed until regular meeting.

3. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Assistant Beth Horner, Public Works Ende

VISITORS: WHPS Chief Gary Kroells, ABDO Steve McDonald

4. Expenditure of remaining 2015 Street Overlay Bond Proceeds – Discussion relating to utilizing remaining proceeds.

Kaltsas noted most of the work was completed last year with the exception of the City parking lot. He said there was also a recent water main (sewer) break on South Lake Sarah Drive that will need to be patched. Kaltsas said the roads project came in under budget and the remaining funds need to be spent before the end of the year. Kaltsas said remaining work is going to come in around 100k. He said the Independence portion of the Maple Plain reconstruction efforts of Budd Avenue will be approximately 19k. A sewer oversizing cost to upgrade that pipe along Budd Avenue is a portion of that cost coming in at 12k. Kaltsas noted Independence will receive a credit of \$4500 for the costs absorbed for Maple Plain portion on previous road repair. Kaltsas said there is about 133k remaining in the roads fund.

Kaltsas said Staff has looked at two separate road projects coming up; black top material and seal coat for Independence Road/ Hillstrom. Kaltsas said Staff is also looking at potentially tiling on Lake Sarah Drive.

Betts said if they were going to sealcoat Independence Road they might as well do the whole thing. Spencer said the extra funds will help out with the City reserve at the end of the year. Kaltsas said Staff will lay out a whole capital plan for roads including gravel, seal coat and tiling that will provide a ten year snapshot. Johnson said this could be put together and then the Resolution brought before City Council.

5. 2017 Budget Introduction – discussion relating to initial assumptions and budget process.

Kaltsas said this item is to lay out items in the budget and get an idea of what it will entail. Johnson asked if there was a number from the county on the valuation for the City. McDonald said the tax capacity is 5.6 higher than last year. Kaltsas noted the budget gets skewed as far as Public Works as hours pieced out to sewer are not used but are allocated in that budget. McDonald stated the overall levy is about 5%.

Kroells said cost to Independence for police is estimated to go up approximately 120k. Kroells stated WHPS is laying out a 5-8 year capital plan as well. He noted radios and other technology are outdated and it is no longer cost effective to repair.

Kaltsas noted the tax capacity is going to have a better increase than last year which will help budgeting. He said without raising the tax rate additional revenue will be captured due to the increased capacity. McDonald stated that 120k increase is what is needed if the police budget increases 9%. Kaltsas noted the rate increase last year. Johnson stated this is just the City and doesn't include what the County will do. Kaltsas said this is a look at the framework for the budget and a first blush will be provided at the City Council meeting in July. McDonald noted there was a lot of clean up done to the budget last year and there will most likely be more adjustments to make it a solid representation. Kaltsas said the biggest factors last year were the police, fire and bond payments. McCoy said he would like to keep the tax rate flat as values go up. Spencer noted Police cost go up each year and there is not much that can be done about that. Betts asked what the benefit was when a new home is built in the City. Kaltsas stated it increases the tax capacity and the City receives additional revenue.

6. **Shrine Circus-** Shrine Horsemen discussion relating to hosting circus in Independence.

Kaltsas said Larry Messerly with the Shrine Circus asked about the possibility of having the Circus at the Shriner barn and property. The event is usually held at the Target Center but they were not able to get the dates they needed this year. Kaltsas said they get about 3000 people per show and hold six shows over the weekend. He said they would use tents. Johnson said it may work better if they used Pioneer Park. Kroells cautioned with that number of people County Road 90 would be shut. He noted the circus previously held at the park drew about 500 people. McCoy noted it would be a big donation to the park fund. Betts asked if they have ever held an event like this without the amenities available at the Target Center. Grotting said big events like this promote the City. McCoy said it would be more professional than the Circus the City has hosted previously. Spencer said more information was needed to understand the scope and possibilities.

7. **LMCC Update** – update from Council Member Grotting

Grotting said Maple Plain is leaving the LMCC at the end of the year. There is less than ½ members from the start and may not be sustainable. Grotting wondered if the charter was obsolete. He said smaller municipalities benefit the most from the LMCC. He noted the City has signed on for another 10 year agreement. Grotting said other cities are opting to do the LMCC functions themselves and uploading meetings, etc. to the internet instead of relying on cable. Grotting said for the 12k we pay the City is getting a good value with the cable programming.

Vose stated about 50% have service. Grotting said people are moving away from cable. McCoy said Mediacom is less reliable than Frontier. Spencer said if we have a 10 year commitment than there really is no reason to discuss at this point.

8. **Solar Ordinance Discussion**

Kaltsas noted the applicant wanted to know if they could move the solar discussion to the City Council meeting on July 26th instead of July 12th. Spencer noted the ordinance has specifically left out solar gardens. Kaltsas noted they do not have a CUP on the table but rather a text amendment and they want to address Council. Vose said Council would be denying the request by adopting the ordinance. Johnson said that other people are allowed to delay so he did not see a problem with the extension.

9. City Council Electronic Packet/Device Consideration-

Kaltsas said everyone is comfortable with going to electronic packets. He asked if the Council was interested in using City-owned devices or if they preferred to use their own. He noted the Planning Commission preferred to use their devices. Kaltsas checked with other cities and many issue a stipend and let the official decide what type of device to purchase or use that works best for them. He noted the convenience of using a platform (drop box) that all could access instead of sending emails. Grotting asked about potential liability issues if they use their own personal device. Vose stated it does mean make the device exempt from data practice laws just because it is a personal device.

Spencer said he prefers that the City does not own the device and a stipend is provided as each new member comes on board. He said it would be simpler for the City. Kaltsas said it could be a one-time stipend. Vose stated the stipend would have to be done as a Resolution and not compensation.

10. General Correspondence- brief mention of several upcoming items

- a) Council Meeting Schedule-August Primary Election Conflict
- b) Newsletter Update- City of Independence only Newsletter
- c) Hennepin County Assessor- Contract for Services
- d) Temporary Family Health Care Dwellings Ordinance-Discussion relating to recent legislation

It was discussed and approved to have one meeting at the end of August and cancel the conflicting meeting in early August due to the Primary Election being held.

Kaltsas said Maple Plain had opted out of doing the joint newsletter with Independence. Maple Plain is going to do their own newsletter and include it in their utility bills to save money.

Kaltsas said there will be a new contract coming up for the Hennepin County Assessor and the services they provide. Johnson noted that through the RFP process they were the most reasonable.

Kaltsas said the Temporary Family Health Care Dwelling Act that passed essentially allows someone to park a trailer or modular home on a driveway without getting a City permit. He said the City can “opt out” of the law by passing an Ordinance stating the “opt out” of the statutory requirement of the law. Kaltsas noted Independence does not allow a temporary structure of any kind.

11. ADJOURN

Johnson adjourned the work session at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Bemmels, Recording Secretary