

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY June 21, 2022–6:30 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 Johnson at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Councilors McCoy, Betts, and  
Grotting (virtual)

ABSENT: Councilor Spencer

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Chief Kroells

VISITORS: None.

*All votes were roll call votes*

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 June 7, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable (Batch # 1; Checks Numbered 21284-21311)

**Motion by Betts, second by McCoy to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: Johnson, Grotting, McCoy and Betts. Nays: None. Absent: Spencer. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.**

5. SET AGENDA – ANYONE NOT ON THE AGENDA CAN BE PLACED UNDER OPEN/MISC.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

**Grotting attended the following meetings:**

- Watched Mayor Johnson’s KSTP MN Live interview and wonderful job promoting Independence

**McCoy attended the following meetings:**

- June 13 Fire Commission Meeting

**Betts attended the following meetings:**

- June 13 Fire Commission Meeting

**Johnson attended the following meetings:**

- Interviews of the two candidates for upcoming staff vacancy (along with Councilor Spencer)
- June’s Northwest League of MN Cities meeting in Loretto: speakers- Gary Carlson of Northwest League of MN Cities and Patty Nauman of Metro Cities MN
- Orono High School Graduation
- Lunch with James Wisker, Exec Dir Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, & Gene Maxwell, at Maynards, Excelsior
- Regional Council Mayors Meeting
- Maple Plain Fire Commission Meeting, audit report
- KSTP interview to be replaying on July 4th
- West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce
- Memorial service for Joe Reycraft, a previous Maple Plain business owner
- Visited with Public Works Director re Lk Sarah Rd

**Kaltsas attended the following meetings:**

- June 13 Fire Commission Meeting
- Staff interviews

7. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Gary Kroells: Presentation of the May 2022 Activity Report.

Chief Kroells briefly described the report. For the month of May, there were 1,782 Incidence Complaints and Independence had 313 of those.

See Full Report for more details.

125 traffic contacts citations, verbal warnings.

Independence has been spared from increased car jackings, however a resident’s call for an Uber was an issue when he’d gotten into a wrong car and thought the driver was acting weird.

8. PUBLIC HEARING: Vacation for that portion of Quass Cut-Off Road Right of Way - Associated with the Final Plat for Hilltop Prairie.:

- a. **RESOLUTION No. 22-0621-01** – Approving the right of way vacation.

The council approved Mayor Johnson to continue chairing the meeting and he reserved his comments to moderating.

Kaltsas said the City recently approved the Hilltop Prairie final plat subdivision and had identified the need to extend the road from the east side of CR90 to align it with Quass Cut-Off on the west side of CR90, thus approving a realign intersection E of CR90 with the condition that the applicant dedicate the ROW necessary to align the W side. Because this was 2 different properties both owned by the applicant, the City is vacating the ROW with the applicant's plan to vacate. Bringing it before council for a public hearing to vacate a public right of way is a formality of that final plat for Hilltop Prairie subdivision. It includes about 15,000 sq ft and the new area will realign at the new point where it starts and it's shifting south on the property. There's no net acreage loss. Betts asked if it were a safety issue. Hennepin County and the City preferred this area to make the realignment to create more space for HC's guidelines giving a good solution even though the road will dip a little. Johnson noted there was an electric/utility pole on the corner asking who will take initiative that. Kaltsas stated the utility wires on the north property aren't on the ROW, but South of Quass Cut-Off, the utility must be realigned by utility when that road goes in.

Johnson inquired of audience. No one wanted to speak. Kaltsas said no property owners are impacted as both sides were owned by same owner.

Betts motioned to close the public hearing. McCoy seconded. No further questions.

**Ayes: Grotting, McCoy, and Betts. Nays: None. Absent: Spencer. Abstain. Johnson.**

Grotting motioned to accept the realignment.

**Motion by Grotting, second by McCoy to approve RESOLUTION 22-0621-01 – approving the right of way vacation. Ayes: Grotting, McCoy, and Betts. Nays: None. Absent: Spencer. Abstain. Johnson. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3:0**

9. Open/Misc.

Mayor Johnson was going to Duluth to represent the city at the League of Minnesota Cities Convention.

10. Adjourn.

**Motion carried by McCoy, second by Betts to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm.**

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Johnson / Recording Secretary