

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL AND MAPLE PLAIN CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015 –7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a joint meeting of the Independence City Council and Maple Plain City Council was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Independence Mayor Johnson and Maple Plain Mayor Young. Independence Councilors Betts, Fisher Wenck, Spencer. Maple Plain Councilors Eisinger, McCoy, DeLuca and Maas-Kusske.

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Independence City Interim City Administrator and City Planner Kaltsas, Independence City Attorney Vose and Administrative Assistant Horner. Maple Plain City Administrator Melvin and WHPS Director Kroells

VISITORS: LuAnn Brenno, Sean Miner, Steve Horach, Lynda Franklin, Ray McCoy, Bobbi McCoy, Trish Bemmels, Steve Grotting

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by McCoy, second by Young to adopt the agenda. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, Wenck, Spencer, Young, Eisinger, McCoy, DeLuca and Maas-Kusske. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

5. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE BY CHIEF KROELLS

Kroells stated the Emergency Management Plan was updated in August 2015. Kroells stated the Lakes Area Region includes the cities of Corcoran, Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenfield, Greenwood, Independence, Long Lake, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, Minnetonka Beach, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, St. Bonifacius, Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Wayzata and Woodland. He stated all of the cities work together in the event of a disaster in our area. Kroells stated each City Administrator has a copy of this manual as well as Fire Chief Eisinger. Kroells said the plan comes into play when dealing with natural disasters, train wrecks, plane crashes, terrorism and any other potential emergency situations that may occur. He said an emergency plan provides direction and strategies to be implemented in the event of a disaster. Kroells asked the Councils to accept the updated Resolution 15-1027-02. Johnson noted nothing really major changed within the plan except grammar and language around annexes. Kroells noted the last update was 2010. Johnson asked if the plan was approved tonight would other cities come back with any big changes. Kroells said not to expect big changes. Johnson noted the cities would have to approve independently.

Motion by Wenck, second by Spencer to approve Resolution 15-1027-02. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, Wenck and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Motion by DeLuca, second by McCoy to approve Resolution 15-1027-02. Ayes: Young, Eisinger, McCoy, DeLuca and Maas-Kusske. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

6. SEPTEMBER MONTHLY REPORT BY CHIEF KROELLS

Kroells stated that as the end of September, WHPS handled a total of 6,266 incident complaints with 1,997 in Maple Plain and 3,768 in Independence. He said this was an increase of 766 incidents compared to the same time frame last year. Kroells noted the officers have been working very hard with the volume of incidents compared to last year and having one less officer on staff due to a maternity leave.

➤ Please see the Director's News and Notes attachment for the full September Activity Report

Kroells updated the Council on Highway 12. He said MNDOT developed a seventy-five page safety audit. Kroells has organized a meeting with the area police chiefs and Senator Osmek and Representative Hertaus. He said they need to be brought up to speed on the recommendations so funding can get underway for the project. Kroells stated MNDOT has stated that 23-25% of crashes occur on the stretch of Highway 12 in Independence. The portion of the Highway through the Independence stretch has not been updated in over 35 years. Kroells said there are 20,000 vehicles on Highway 12 throughout any given day. The statistics show that people are two times more likely to be seriously injured or killed on Highway 12 than any other road in the state of Minnesota. Kroells said short term plans are to put LED lighting at all the intersections through Independence at a cost of \$100,000.00. There are also plans to put in left hand turn lanes on County Road 92. Rumble strips are to be added east of Maple Plain. Blue lights are also to be installed at all of the traffic light controlled intersections which allow the police to monitor red light offenders. Kroells would like to see County Road 92 become one intersection that is controlled. He also would like to see County Road 90 become a roundabout. McCoy asked if Kroells would come and speak to Maple Plain so they could dive into the recommendations for their portion of Highway 12. Kroells stated that he would come and speak with them on a coordinated date.

Motion by Young, second by Wenck to accept the September Report. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, Wenck, Spencer, Young, Eisinger, McCoy, DeLuca and Maas-Kusske. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

7. MAPLE PLAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE BY CHIEF EISENGER

Eisinger stated that expenditures for the year are at 60%. He noted the majority spent was on equipment. Eisinger stated there is a 3% wage increase budgeted for next year. There are currently 30 firefighters on the payroll including the 3 new ones that just started. Eisinger stated they have eleven firefighters with over 20 years of service. They answered 227 calls so far this year. There have been 23 calls so far this month.

Johnson asked what percentage of calls are actual fires. Eisinger stated about 15-18% are actual fires with the rest being in-house medicals and car crashes.

Eisinger would like have a Regional Training Officer to be shared with three other cities. He would like to apply for the shared services grant for that position. It would be 10% per city or \$4000/ year. There is a study that has been requested to be done prior to a hire. Johnson stated he would be hesitant without seeing something in writing first that describes this position. Johnson said his concern would be that going ahead with the study would commit us to something that we do not have in writing. McCoy asked if the study showed that we did not need the additional duty crew would that reduce the grant amount. Eisinger stated it would not. Wenck asked who did these training duties currently. Eisinger said each department did it currently and it was very time consuming. This would ensure the training was standardized.

Motion by DeLuca, second by McCoy to approve the Fire Department Study for Maple Plain. Ayes: Young, Eisinger, McCoy, DeLuca and Maas-Kusske. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Motion by Betts, second by Spencer to approve the Fire Department Study for Independence. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, Wenck and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Eisinger stated Maple Plain and Independence have a unique hybrid situation that is being looked at by others around the state. He said the Fire and Police Departments work together seamlessly and he truly appreciates it.

Motion by McCoy, second by Wenck to accept the Fire Department Report. Ayes: Young, Eisinger, McCoy, DeLuca and Maas-Kusske Johnson. Betts, Fisher, Wenck and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

8. SHARED SERVICES UPDATE BY MELVIN

- a. Consideration of Maple Plain using Independence's Building Inspector
- b. Status of Shared Services by both Councils

Melvin stated she and Kaltsas had been looking at options to share Independence's building inspector with Maple Plain. Johnson stated it could look like the current contract Independence has with the City of Delano who uses the building inspector in the same scenario. Melvin stated that was one of the options but thought that the Maple Plain Council would like to look at some different scenarios but that may best be done in a workshop meeting. McCoy agreed that the Maple Plain Council wants to wrap this service into a bigger joint powers agreement rather than a pay per hour agreement. Johnson said the Independence Council is comfortable with letting the Inspector do inspections immediately if Maple Plain needs the help but only on a contract basis. Young stated he would like to see a work session happen in the near future. Spencer agreed that they have not had a chance to sit down and discuss shared services and what the individual concerns are surrounding it. McCoy stated they have worked on this for the last two and half years and all of the Maple Plain Council members have stated they support moving forward but they have never heard back from Independence. McCoy stated Maple Plain is short staffed with a resignation that just happened today. He said he would like to see a meeting within the month of November. Young said he would like to have a separate meeting that is not taking place before or after other meetings. Maas-Kusske said this topic was important enough that it needed to be the sole focus of a meeting.

Motion by Spencer, second by Maas-Kusske to have staff schedule a Joint Workshop for November. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, Spencer, Eisinger, McCoy, DeLuca, Maas-Kusske. Nays: None. Absent: Young. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

9. COUNCIL UPDATES

Maple Plain Updates:

Young stated Maple Plain has been busy with the Rose Creek project and roads/ sidewalk work. He said they have utilities construction being worked on with two properties. Eisinger added they have two visibility studies in progress in regards to the downtown renovations. McCoy added that Olson's gas station had officially closed on October 15th and they are looking at relocating the historical building. He noted that the City of Maple Plain now owns that entire block and they are working with a developer to hopefully begin

construction in the spring of 2016. Maas-Kusske said they have a business owner development plan in progress with the DBA to promote and support local business in their efforts to revitalize the downtown area.

DeLuca said Maple Plain and Independence work on the Watershed Commission together and on November 16th there will be a large forum to discuss the watershed efforts. He said this is an opportunity for all in the community to attend and find out more about the Watershed and ongoing projects.

Independence Updates:

Spencer spoke about the restoration project at the Lake Independence Weir. He outlined the work done by the volunteer group and the money it saved the City of Independence. Volunteers were Spencer, Mike Peterson, Derek Spencer, Larry Ende and Joe Baker. Spencer said they had fun getting together and doing the work. He thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

Fisher covered the roads project and said approximately 2/3 of the City of Independence's road were overlaid in the past couple of weeks.

Wenck spoke about the upcoming elections on Tuesday, November 3rd. He said there are four council candidates for two open positions. He noted the Mayor was running for re-election and encouraged everyone to vote.

Betts outlined the subdivision that was currently underway at Koch's Crossing. She noted that Koch's Crossing at Independence Road would be closed for two months while work was being done. Betts said seventeen new homes would be going into that subdivision and a new road would be going through it. Johnson noted only one of the homes would be on the Metropolitan sewer line. Eisinger stated they had done line fire trainings at Koch's Crossing.

10. SWEARING IN OF OFFICER LANCE ZILLES

Kroells addressed the audience and stated that this was a very special night to honor and celebrate Officer Lance Zilles. The official swearing in ceremony was performed. Kroells noted Zilles went through an extensive interview process. Kroells stated Maple Plain and Independence hold their police officers in the highest regard. Kroells introduced the parents of Zilles and noted the strong moral character they instilled in Zilles. Kroells recognized various other family members for their support and encouragement of Zilles. Zilles took the formal oath of office. Officer Dennison presented the WHPS badge to Zilles. Young and Johnson congratulated and welcomed Officer Zilles on behalf of the Cities.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Everyone was invited to the reception in honor of Officer Zilles.

Motion by Wenck, second by DeLuca to adjourn the Joint Council Meeting at 8:25 p.m. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, Spencer, Young, Eisinger, McCoy, DeLuca, and Maas-Kusske. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Bemmels, Recording Secretary