

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING AND WORK SESSION OF THE  
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018 –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. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Assistant Beth Horner, Public Works Director Ende, WHPS Chief Kroells, ABDO Steve McDonald and Liz Lindrud

VISITORS: None

3. General Administration

a. 2019 Budget

- o Preliminary Budget Review/Discussion
- o Fire Department Budget/District Boundary Discussion

Kaltsas said the goal was to keep the budget at a flat 40% tax rate. There is an overall increase of 1.37% and general tax levy increase of 3.5%. Public Safety is a large area of increase. Delano Fire went down and Loretto Fire went up. The next purchase for Public Works will be a tandem axle vehicle and capital equipment funds will be budgeted for that purchase which will occur in 2020. Kaltsas said it would need to be ordered in 2019. Building improvements will be budgeted for HVAC and other upgrades that are needed. Health insurance is increasing by 20% for employees so benefits will need to be addressed.

McDonald said Kaltsas hit the main items. He noted the increased fund balance and said the general fund is healthy. Comparable with other cities Independence is in line. The fund balance reserve is 45%. Working capital with the general fund is healthy. Ende outlined timeline needed to order the truck for Public Works with the total being between 230-240k. Johnson asked the status of the pay loader and Ende said it was working fine. Ende said roads are in good shape but noted down the road we might not get state money anymore. He said without that money it will be hard to do tiling within the budget.

b. General Administration:

- o City's Involvement in On-Site Septic Systems Discussion

Kaltsas stated we charge Ox Yoke a quarterly charge but we are not charging enough to maintain the system. Eventually the system will fail at the levels of use it handles. The City is working with Ox Yoke to review what can be done to fix the problem. A new tank is needed to be added to the existing system and that cost would be around 50k. The City has rebuilt the system once already in 1985. This system is a relic. The City has gotten rid of every other on-site system. Operationally it would make more sense for the business owner to take over the system but there may be concern over liability should the system fail.

4. Close Meeting

Meeting closed per Mayor pro tem Spencer.

- a. Closed Meeting to Discuss Possible Legal Actions Involving Zoning Ordinance Violations Relating to Property Zoned Rural Residential and Being Used for a Contractors Business.

Meeting re-opened per Mayor pro tem Spencer.

5. ADJOURN

**Motion by McCoy, second by Betts to adjourn at 8:40 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Trish Bemmels, Recording Secretary