

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY APRIL 19, 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 7:00 p.m. (running late due to reconvene LBAE meeting)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Assistant to Administrator
Horner, Chief Kroells

VISITORS: Marty Chelstrom

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 April 5, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of City Council Minutes from the April 5, 2022, Board (LBAE) City Council Meeting.
- c. Approval of Accounts Payable (Batch # 1; Checks Numbered 21165-21191)
- d. Temporary Gambling Permit for Orono Baseball Association.
- e. Approval of Final Pay Applications #15 and #16 by Rochon Corporation for City Hall Improvements.

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

1

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Police Commission
- Chamber of Commerce
- Citizens Police Academy Graduation
- LBAE

Grotting attended the following meetings:

- Citizens Police Academy Graduation
- LBAE

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- LBAE
- Citizens Police Academy Graduation

McCoy attended the following meetings:

- Citizens Police Academy Graduation
- LBAE
- Fire District Meeting

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Fire District Meeting
- Governor's Council (virtual)
- Citizens Police Academy Graduation
- Highway 55 Corridor Meeting
- Congressmen Phillips Mayor's Breakfast
- John DeLong Retirement Celebration
- Orono School Board
- Police Commission
- U of M 4-H
- Chamber of Commerce
- NW League meeting
- National League of Cities Meeting (virtual)
- Energy and Environmental Resources Webinar (virtual)
- LBAE

Horner attended the following meetings:

- LBAE

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

- MetCouncil

7. Hennepin County Commissioner Kevin Anderson: Annual Visit/County Updates.

Chief Kroells briefly described the report. For the month of March there were 714 incident complaints. Independence was 255 of those.

See Full Report for more details.

Kroells stated that the body cams that the officers are now wearing are really working well. They are helpful and very clear. He also made mention that the Citizens Academy was a great turnout. It was mostly Independence residents. This started back in 1999 and they had people show up that graduated from the citizens academy in 2009 to show their certificate. It was great to be back after covid to engage with the citizens.

Kroells said County Road 92 and Hwy 12 is officially closed on both ends. Please be patient while figuring out the new routes. The next step with Hwy 12 is the design. They are working on that and will have to seek out funding for that as a city.

8. Tom Koch (Applicant/Owner) is requesting that the City consider the following action for the property generally located at 5865 Koch's Crossing (PID No.s 11-118-24-12-0004, 11-118-24-13-0003, 11-118-24-31-0005, 11-118-24-13-0002, 11-118-24-42-0001, 11-118-24-42-0002) in Independence, MN:

- a. **RESOLUTION 22-0419-01:** Considering approval of a conditional use permit to allow a cluster development and approval of a Preliminary Plat to allow a 33-lot subdivision to be known as KOCH FARM SANCTUARY.

Kaltsas said this is coming back after being previously discussed. There were two items asked to be added to the resolution: future ROW to west property line and the trail connection from Kochs to Brei Kessel.

Based on the ordinances you can't develop this area now, but in the future, it could change how the property is laid out. Currently the surrounding property owners were okay with the ROW.

As far as the trail connection we are not looking to design that tonight, but the developer is asking what type of connection the Council is recommending such as the width of trail and what type of material. The applicant provided a 4ft wooden bridge or possibly steel may be an option. It should be something that the city can maintain and is safe if it's in the city's ROW. If it is going to be pedestrian or bike only, it should be wide enough that we can put a piece of equipment on it for maintaining, but people may want to drive through it then. Johnson said we have to have a structure with life expectancy rather than a culvert. Something like a bridge but not wide enough for a car. It could be big enough for a four-wheeler or golf cart. Spencer said bridges require a lot of maintenance. There is a liability of maintaining it and someone could get hurt. Spencer would rather see a path over a culvert with no maintenance. Betts said we should have railings on each side. She asked if there was a culvert how we could do that. Spencer said you can put railings on either side of a culvert. It should be 4ft-5ft at the most. Betts said she doesn't want the stream to be compromised with the culvert. Johnson said maybe we need the city engineer to look at it, so we don't do damage. Kaltsas said that is fair, but he is just looking to get direction, not design it tonight. This should be permanent and low maintenance. This is in lieu of a road. It should not be a burden on a long-term maintenance on our taxpayers and be much less intrusive than a full road.

Johnson asked about the access to the West and if we need to determine exact location now. Kaltsas said no. If council can just note if it should be there or not. It would be something that could serve a future development if it ever came through.

Motion by Betts, second by McCoy to approve RESOLUTION 22-0419-01 and applicant to complete a bituminous trail. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy and Betts. Nays: Spencer. Absent: None. Abstain. Grotting. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

9. Discuss possible meeting dates for Alternate Planning Commissioner interviews to replace vacant alternate commissioner position.

Johnson asked if this is something that we can do before the next council meeting. Kaltsas said we only need about 10 minutes a piece. Johnson said that one of the applicants is married into the family so he would have to abstain from this. Kaltsas said we can plan on doing these interviews a half hour before the next meeting. We will plan on 6pm on May 3rd.

10. Adjourn.

Motion by Spencer, second by Grotting to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amber Simon / Recording Secretary