

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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 and Councilors Betts, Spencer, and Grotting.

ABSENT: McCoy.

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Assistant Administrator Simon, and WHPS Director Kroells.

VISITORS: None.

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 December 1, 2022, City Council Workshop.
- b. Approval of City Council Minutes from the December 6, 2022, Truth in Taxation Meeting.
- c. Approval of City Council Minutes from the December 6, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting.
- d. Approval of Accounts Payable (Batch # 1; Checks Numbered 21672-21677, Batch # 2; Checks Numbered 21678-21707).
- e. Third Quarter Financial Report (for information)

Johnson – Would you like to say anything more, Mark?

Kaltsas- We reviewed it and everything on the finances looks about where we thought it'd be. We're down on taxes and as normal still have more coming on that. Fees are up this year. A couple of our spending categories are in the ballpark this year, but otherwise we are in the positive to where we should be at this time of year. I think we look pretty good.

Motion by Spencer, seconded by Betts to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Spencer, and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4.0

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

Kaltsas requested to share with the Council.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Grotting attended the following meetings:

- None

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- None

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Hwy 55 Coalition Meeting,
- Police Commission,
- WHCC Chamber of Commerce Christmas meeting & potluck

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- League of MN Cities Mtg (virtual) former presidents' connection – Dave Unmacht, Exec Director of the League, announced his retirement in May after 7 years. The LMC Board will launch a search for his successor, and Ann Finn will take Gary Carlson's place after 30 years.
- Legion Christmas party
- Hwy 55 Corridor Coalition Quarterly Meeting - City Hall
- Regional Council Mayors Meeting at the Mpls Club
- WHPS interview of police candidate
- NW League at DOBO's with all Police Chiefs' recognition
- Orono Health Youth meeting
- Tom Emmer's Holiday reception - Otsego
- Maple Plain Council Meeting – Cahill's last night at Council

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

Through November WHPS has handled 4,307 incident complaints: 222 were in Independence and 130 were in Maple Plain. There were 10 incidents of drivers going up and over the roundabout at Co Rd 92 and Hwy 12. Eastbound traffic mostly has this problem, and the sign might still be run down. Director Kroells is close to asking the City's Public Works to add a red, orange, and white type 3 road barrier to prevent it from continually happening. There were: DWI arrests; a baby boy's intentional home birth happened near Olstad Drive and Independence at 9:40pm where he arrived before the midwife's arrival and an officer used a blue suction bulb to help remove fluid and mucous from his mouth and nose. They went to North Memorial afterwards to be checked out. A DWI arrest of a male soliciting sexual acts at nearby parking lot. He was extremely intoxicated and placed under arrest. He was transported back to WHPS and had refused a breath test. He was released to a sober party and charges are pending. See the full report in the meeting's packet.

The 42nd annual View Santa was held on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, and it was another tremendous event. The staff did a wonderful job decorating the front lobby. Cookies, treats, and City Hall decorations were well received. WHPS and reserves traveled throughout the cities and collected 1,570 lbs. of food and \$700 cash for Helping Hands Food Shelf in Delano. Santa continued to do a great job, and all were really excited to see him coming down the road.

Citizens Police Academy will be held on Thursday nights from February 16 – April 6, 2023. Brochures are available now at WHPS' Events tab even though it is a little early now. We will promote this and hope to have 12-15 people attend which is usually never a hard to fill.

Betts- It was also full page in the City's Winter 2023 newsletter.

Johnson – Does the County still do one?

Kroells – There aren't many left that do it anymore. I'm not sure if they do it anymore since Covid. Our officers really enjoy teaching it.

Johnson – The graduation is a nice reunion for everyone in the past.

Kroells- It began around 1999 so you might have been in the first class.

Johnson – The polo shirts don't have the year on them. Mine is old and itchy now. The current shirts are very nice. Has everyone been healthy?

Kroells – Actually not. We had one sick over the weekend and a few others out, but mostly just dealing with the common cold.

Johnson – Well, wish them well, and I hope they can get their Christmas in with all their differing schedules.

8. Open/Misc.

Kaltsas – I had a call at end of last week from a financial advisor in Fargo who was looking for financing a deal for nonprofits for 2023. We have been previously open to that conduit finance. This project is called 180 Degrees and does housing for people without housing. There are two different renovations projects and has a \$5.5 million issuance with potentially a \$25,000 fee for issuing that. I'm checking if anyone had any concerns. I had mentioned that we might be interested and that I'd present it to you. It's a .25 - 1 point, and we are always at .50 or below range. One project is in Rochester and the other is in St. Cloud. They'd need approval from those communities. We have no bond issue, and we aren't planning anything for next year. So, it doesn't impact our bank qualify ability. It's \$5.5 million, so we'd still have room even if it was. Do you have any thoughts?

Johnson – They have been good projects where they have worked. It would be fun to see the school in Coon Rapids some time. The first one we did was with senior housing in Crystal and took off like a firecracker and filled up immediately.

Betts – Have we done more schools?

Kaltsas- Recently we did two schools and one senior housing.

Johnson – The one Director invited us to come up there.

Grotting – Is it just building a project, or do they fund ongoing projects?

Kaltsas – It's building and infrastructure (parking, utilities, etc.) cost, not operational.

Johnson - They can add on to a facility. Are we ready to adjourn?

9. Adjourn.

Motion by Betts, second by Grotting to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Johnson / Recording Secretary