

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023 – 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 McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts (remotely- non-voting).

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas

VISITORS: See Sign-in Sheet.

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 February 9, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch #1 - Checks No. 21823-21831 and Batch #2 - Checks No. 21832-21855).
- c. 4th Quarter Building Permit (for information only)
- d. Approval of annual liquor license renewals for the following establishments:
 - i. Ox Yoke Inn - Off Sale, On Sale and Sunday License
 - ii. Windsong Farm Golf Club LLC - Off Sale, On Sale and Sunday License
 - iii. Pioneer Creek Golf LLC – On Sale and Sunday License

Feb 9th Minutes will be approved at the next Council Meeting. The 4th Quarter Building Permit should have stated Financial Report.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Spencer approval of the 4th Quarter Financial Report subject to audit. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts (remotely- non-voting). Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4.0

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

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:

- Attempted Lake Independence Party on the Ice- cancelled due to bad ice
- Planning Commission mtg

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Drug Task Force Luncheon
- Lake Minnetonka Cable Commission – elected to a post, Council invited to Summit on 3/16 at 6pm -Spring Park
- Planning Commission mtg

Betts attended the following meetings:

McCoy attended the following meetings:

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Senior Community Services Office – Exec Dir. Presented him a plaque for his years of service.
- WeCAN Breakfast Fundraiser – Mound Legion– cancelled due to building issue.
- Regional Council of Mayors –
- Breakfast with Congressman Phillips- Maple Grove Original Pancake House
- MN Natural Resources Dept re Luce Line Trail – cancelled -Legislature went into session.
- Orono Healthy Youth Collaborative mtg
- Drug Task Force Luncheon - Joint Powers South Lake are joining group.
- Hwy 55 Corridor Coalition with MNDot – missed from out-of-town travel
- League of MN Cities Mtg (virtual) - Energy Environment and Natural Resources - missed

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

7. Hennepin County Commissioner Kevin Anderson – Annual County Update.

Hennepin County Kevin Anderson serves District 7 since elected in 2020 and has an IT background. He prioritizes investing in physical infrastructure (roads and bridges), broadband expansion (reliable & affordable for all), mental health services, and supporting our Veterans community. Highlights: Hennepin County allocated \$10 million to expand broadband access in all communities and recently partnered with service providers and cities to expand to nearly 1,000 homes including \$250,000 specifically to Independence homes. Infrastructure for the western suburbs can take a long time to get off the ground. (The Hwy 610 Project had been in the making for nearly 50 years. They helped secure final state and federal funding to complete Hwy 610.) He is our Public Works County Advocate for needed projects, too. County Projects included retraining for incarcerated people, tree planting efforts to cool urban areas and help keep clean air, the Co Rd 92 and Hwy 12 reconstruction, and Veterans group support, adding MAC-V's mission for 16 new units in Robbinsdale for veterans dealing with homelessness. Continued work on the

Conservation Easement on Lake Rebecca (privately owned land on northside by Lake Haughey) and Reconstruction of Rd 92 Bridge over Hwy 12. He also convenes mental health roundtables focusing on health providers, schools, and parents as well as hosting a Veterans Summit at a public Townhall. Mayor Johnson is part of Orono Healthy Youth Collaborative, RELATE fitting in. Amy is involved in the Osseo school collaborative. HN Cty helps as a funding stream within schools. If a student needs mental health resources, a provider can help students right there. Youth Sports Grant funding – library expansion hours & Sports grants funding awards. In 2021 Anderson authored to have Arts be eligible as a separate funding as these are often cut in schools, and since many students are struggling with loneliness, these extra connections are vital. A 3.5% Levy increase was passed which is 1% less than previously passed; all programs were funded. Road projects and staffing has been hard for everyone across the state. We continue to use our tax dollars responsibly and invest strategically. (Kaltsas: The City of Independence is applying for HN Cty Broadband Grant (Youth Sports Grant) as a match to the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant. If awarded those grants, then the 30% of Independence that has not been met would be served.) There's never been a point like now with State and Federal grants to get expansion of broadband services! Mayor Johnson appreciates Commissioner Anderson's letter of support. Commissioner Anderson reminded to reach out to him for anything that I can help with.

8. PUBLIC HEARING: Consider Vacation for that portion of Koch's Crossing Right of Way and adjacent Cartway.

- a. **RESOLUTION 23-0221-01 – Approving Vacation**

Johnson opened the Public Hearing. In approving the final plat for the 33-lot Koch's Crossing development, the City is dedicating a new Right of Way allowing for a realignment of Koch's Crossing to the north. The City is being asked to vacate these 2 segments of the old Koch's Crossing to allow for the new road to go in and eliminate the encumbrance this easement has on those properties to be platted with the new homesites. All Serenity Hills residents were sent notices and did not hear back of anything.

Motion by McCoy, seconded by Spencer to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Spencer, seconded by McCoy to approve RESOLUTION 23-0221-01 approving vacating a portion of Koch's Crossing and adjacent cartway upon a petition of a majority of abutting landowners. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts (remotely- non-voting). Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4.0

9. Consider Approval of Annual Dust Control and Gravel Bids as Recommended by the Public Works Supervisor.

Public Works Supervisor Bode annually gets bids to get the lowest bulk pricing for treating our gravel roads. He recommends Magnesium Chloride for Dust Control and Class 5 Gravel for Sand and Gravel. Bids listed show an overall increase from previous years. Johnson was surprised the delivery rate was not higher considering everything.

Motion by Spencer, seconded by Grotting to approve the Annual Dust Control and Gravel Bids. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts (remotely- non-voting). Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4.0

10. Letter of Support for the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Border to Border Broadband Grant Application: Consider Approval of a Letter of Support and Resolution.

- a. **RESOLUTION 23-0221-02** – Resolution Supporting the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Border to Border Broadband Grant Application.

Letters were sent to residents and thankfully the City has received many responses in support already in addition to our Senator's and Representative's letters of support. Commissioner Kevin Anderson also plans on giving us a letter of support.

Motion by Grotting, seconded by Spencer to approve the letter of support under the Mayor's signature for Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Border to Border Broadband Grant Application. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts (remotely- non-voting). Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4.0

Motion by Grotting, seconded by McCoy to approve RESOLUTION 23-0221-02 supporting the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Border to Border Broadband Grant Application. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts (remotely- non-voting). Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4.0

11. Open/Misc

12. Adjourn

Motion by Spencer, seconded by Grotting to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:20 pm. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts (remotely- non-voting). Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4.0

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Johnson, Recording Secretary