

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 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 Spencer, Betts, McCoy and Grotting (Virtual)

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, City Administrative Director Simon and WHPS Chief  
Director Kroells

VISITORS: Sam Vandeputte

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 March 7, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch #1 - Checks No. 21883-21900\* and Batch #2 - Checks No. 21901-21910 and Batch #3 - Checks No. 21911-21920, \*Check No. 21894 was Voided due to Printing Error).

**Motion by McCoy, seconded by Betts to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Betts, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. Grotting (virtual). 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

**Grotting attended the following meetings:**

- Tour the new Police/North Memorial Garage
- Met with Public Works staff on the road updates

**Spencer attended the following meetings:**

- LMCC summit
- Lake Sarah Clean-up day on the ice

**Betts attended the following meetings:**

- MP Fire Commission
- Police Commission

**McCoy attended the following meetings:**

- MP Fire Commission

**Johnson attended the following meetings:**

- NW League of Municipalities
- LMC Legislative Day
- Kristin Robbins – Town Hall Meeting
- Regional Council of Mayors
- MP Fire Commission
- Orono School Board
- Chamber of Commerce
- Orono Healthy Youth
- NW League Cable Commission Summit
- 50<sup>th</sup> Ag Day Gala
- Sensible Land Use
- Don Reeder (LMC) Meeting
- Police Commission
- U of M Webinar – Care for wind breaks
- Delano School Board Meeting

**Kaltsas attended the following meetings:**

- N/A

**Simon attended the following meetings:**

- LMC Fraud and Abuse
- Pre-Audit meeting with ABDO
- Celebrated Bruce (our building inspector) 18 year anniversary

7. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Gary Kroells:

- a. Presentation of the January 2022 Activity Report.
- b. Presentation of the February 2023 Activity Report.
- c. WHPS – Advance on Capital Funding Payments to Purchase Squad Cars.

Director Kroells said they had 272 incidents in the month of January 2023. Of that, 182 were in Independence and 70 were in Maple Plain. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, an officer got a call from an elderly woman that was having trouble getting her garbage down to the end of the driveway. The officer assisted her.

In February 2023 they had a total of 289 incidents. There were 167 in Independence and 100 in Maple Plain. In the month of February, there were 3 cases of overdose.

See full police report for more information.

Kroells said that in July of 2022 an officer was in a pursuit that ended in one of their squads to be totaled. They were unable to find a new vehicle due to lack of inventory everywhere. In late December they bought a used squad from South Lake Police Dept. On Jan 19, one of the squads blew a piston. It would cost \$10k to be replaced. It was brought to their attention that there are two vehicles available for purchase in Michigan. The police department is asking the City of Independence to consider paying their CIP upfront that was budgeted for 2023 instead of monthly, so they are able to purchase these two vehicles and have enough vehicles that are needed. The police commission did recommend moving this request forward to council and recommended approval. The vehicles are on hold until council decides.

Kaltsas said that we would prepay this amount instead of paying it monthly and it has already been budgeted.

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by McCoy to approve an advance on Capital Funding Payments to purchase squad cars. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Betts, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. Grotting (virtual). MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.**

8. Open/Misc

9. Adjourn

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by Betts to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:14 pm. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Betts and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. Grotting (virtual). MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.**

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Simon, Recording Secretary