

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 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, Betts, and Spencer.

ABSENT: Grotting.

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, City Administrative Director Simon, and WHPS Chief 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 April 4, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of City Council Minutes from the April 4, 2023, Board LBAE City Council Meeting.
- c. Approval of Accounts Payable (Batch # 1; Checks Numbered 21933-21957 and Batch # 2; Checks Numbered 21958-21976).
- d. 1st Quarter Building Permit Report (For Information Only).

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

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Workshop
- LMCC Executive Committee meeting – possible future questionnaire & workshop needed.
- Lake Independence Citizens Annual meeting w/ Joe Baker

McCoy attended the following meetings:

- Workshop
- Russ Jerde's funeral
- Loretto Fire Dept Breakfast

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Workshop
- Hwy 55 Coalition meeting

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Medina City Council
- Mound Historical Society w/ Dr. Pam Myers
- Regional Council Mayors Meeting
- Orono School Board mtg – going out for bonding but not increasing taxes
- Workshop
- West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce
- NW League meeting
- Hwy 55 Corridor Coalition meeting
- Russel Jerde's funeral
- Kirsten Robbins at Farm Bureau
- Loretto Fire Dept Breakfast
- Fire Dept Awards Night

Mayor Johnson was asked to be on the Hennepin County Weed Appeal Committee. He noted that 3 plants were just added to the Prohibited and Eradicate list: Johnsongrass, Pale swallow-wort, and Red hailstone.

Loretto Mayor Kent Koch was to be testifying on the bonding bill for Hwy 55 Corridor Coalition to bring 4 lanes to Co Rd 19, and the Senate was meeting late with lots of amendments to be made so hopefully they got to it.

County Rd 83 utility work began likely to get ahead of the resurfacing and overlay work the County has planned for Co Rd 6 to Hwy 12. Details were noted in the County's Pre-construction meeting agenda which also mentioned Co Rd 29 & Co Rd 19 in their County-wide Road Projects. The Pre-construction meeting will be Tuesday, April 25 at 1 pm.

7. West Hennepin Public Safety Monthly Report for March 2023 – Chief Gary Kroells.

Chief Kroells stated that their department has been more active than last year with Officers working traffic again. In March there were 387 incidents: 236 in Independence and 100 in Maple Plain. A few incidents from his recap of March's activity are below.

March 9th at Co Rd 110 and Anderson Estates Rd - driver was stuck in snow with a case of beer, blew a 0.21, was arrested and taken to Hennepin County jail for DWI. March 10th at Hwy 12 and Co Rd 92 –

stopped for speeding and equipment violation and found that driver had no insurance, drug paraphernalia, and drugs while carrying 2 handguns which because of the drugs, he was arrested for possession of a firearm by user of a controlled substance. March 13th – Investigator assisted locating a missing, elderly male suffering from dementia who'd left home without his phone. The family had put a Tile tracking device on his keychain which pinged his location when he was driving through areas. Eventually we located him driving 40 mph on 94 and connected ND State Patrol to help locate him and meet back up with the family. See his full report in the meeting's packet.

Officer Nick Eldred, who came from Wright County with 18 years of experience, is doing great and is the final few weeks of his field training. They hope to be fully staffed at the end of the month. Citizens Police Academy began April 6th, and there are 13 participants. The Citizens Police Academy May 25th graduation invites were sent out for former CPA attendees.

Because Mayor Johnson had to miss the North Memorial Ribbon Cutting, Sergeant Denneson had him drive in to see the new Public Works building. North Memorial employees seemed to be settled in. Thanks to Crime Prevention funds and YMCA's donated equipment their health and wellness workout room was nicely set up and in use. The dog kennel had also been donated by our Investigator.

Co Rd 92 between Co Rd 6 and Independence to Co Rd 26 in Minnetrista and Co Rd 50 between Rockford and the Delano Sportsmen's Club in Independence were closed due to flooding, and the County put up barriers.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pope County Officer Josh Owen who was killed in the line of duty on April 15th near Cyrus. His funeral will be on Saturday, and many of our officers will be attending it in support of his family. So far this year there have been 7 Police Officers shot in Minnesota.

8. Consider Approval of the Town Line Road Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). The Cities of Independence, Medina and Orono have Agreed to Reconstruct Town Line Road from the BNSF Railroad to County Road 6. The JPA Will Formalize the Project.

Kaltsas recapped what had been previously brought up at the recent Council Workshop. Independence is working with the cities of Medina and Orono to possibly reconstruct this road which is shared by all communities. The Cities discussed the cost and were trying to save as much of the road base as possible and improve the rest utilizing a geotextile fabric to stabilize the road. The estimated cost is \$352,000, so split 3 ways, it would cost \$117,000 per city. The City budgeted funds in the 2023 Budget for this instead of taking on additional debt. We would also complete the trail section connecting the new culvert underpass with Hwy 12 and the pedestrian crossing back down to Town Line Rd. The feasibility report was prepared by the City of Medina who has been spearheading it to try to save on extensive engineering costs. The majority of the project will be contracted, but all cities have said that if their city's Public Works staff can help with hauling rock, culvert replacement, etc., they would partner in that.

Johnson stated that this has been a long time coming and the residents will appreciate it when it is completed.

Motion by Betts, seconded by McCoy to approve the Town Line Road Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: Grotting. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4-0

9. Consider an Amendment to the Quad City Agreement. The Proposed Amendment Will Provide Independence With 27 Additional Residential Sewer Connections for the BridgeVine Subdivision.

Kaltsas stated this agreement would allow connection of 27 residential units to the sewer that runs under Baker Park Rd and Co Rd 19 which is owned by Medina. We have a Quad City Agreement for Loretto, Greenfield, Medina, and Independence. We have gone through a long process to get this amendment. Exhibit B shows the changes of increasing allocation of units and percentage of share for the section of pipe that this area would flow into. The City of Medina asked for a 500 linear foot section of sewer pipe to be included from Independence Rd to Hwy 12 under Baker Park Rd in Maple Plain. This represents a potential constriction point of the overall system that may need to be upgraded to accommodate the entire Quad City area. Medina is proposing that they have the ability to order an improvement to that particular segment (D-5 south 500') in a period of time that is less than the other improvement timeframe. It currently states a 2-year notice, and the amendment would allow 6-months' notice for just this section. They're trying to potentially position the upgrade to correspond with the Co Rd overlay with Baker Park and Co Rd 19, possibly happening next year. We agreed in theory to that. It still has to go through Greenfield and Loretto. Loretto tabled it and is looking for discussion, and Greenfield doesn't have it scheduled yet but anticipates it being within a month.

Johnson shared that Greenfield and Loretto wanted us to continue to negotiate with MetCouncil and Rep. Judy Johnson for the upgrade funding. He asked about the potential increase that Medina would be putting on with the development just North of Holiday gas station. Kaltsas said 150 units were proposed there. Spencer and Kaltsas discussed the number of connections BridgeVine needed. There are two connections on the Otten property now. We asked for 27 in a revised, simplified way.

Motion by Spencer, seconded by McCoy to approve the amendment to the Quad City Agreement (JPA). Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: Grotting. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4-0

10. Consider Approval of Public Works Capital Equipment Purchase in Accordance with Approved Capital Equipment Plan:

- a. Authorization to Purchase and Order the 2023 Case IH Maxxum 125 AD4 STG 5 W Loader and Bomford VFA Hawk Mower for 2024 Delivery.

Kaltsas stated this was discussed at a recent workshop. Every year the City adopts a Capital Equipment Plan. We have this slated for the 2024 Plan, but this equipment's lead time requires a 12–18-month range with some trucks even needing 2 years. In anticipation of that, cities need to place orders well ahead of the fiscal year. This doesn't move up the purchase, it just gets us in line so we can obtain within a reasonable time in the year we planned. We have designated money in 2024 for a tractor and roadside mower. They have test driven equipment from John Deere, New Holland, and Case. Our Public Works crew would like to purchase the Case tractor and Bomford Hawk 6' wide mower. The Hawk mower is a much improved, safer mower. This will allow us to maintain the 100 lane miles of road, ditches, and roadside in a safer, more efficient manner by extending the mower out without having to get into the ditch or side of the road. It is very versatile for mowing and brush clearing, but we need a larger tractor to do this. We would trade in our well-maintained John Deere getting almost \$60,000. 5 or 6 years ago we bought it for not much more than

that. Because of that high trade value, we came in under budget by about \$15,000. The authorization is to allow the ordering for the purchase for 2024.

Motion by Spencer, seconded by Betts to approve the Capital Equipment Purchase of the tractor and mower. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: Grotting. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4-0

11. Open/Misc

Johnson and Kaltsas discussed the road conditions and that the Public Works crew have been working on them, but the rock pile is being depleted. Gravel pits were not open to get more gravel. Some residents thanked us for the roadwork being done. Road restrictions will continue to be on for a couple more weeks because there is a little frost in the ground. The roads are just not accommodating to the heavy equipment, but they could simply use lighter loads with multiple trucks.

12. Adjourn

Motion by Betts, seconded by Spencer to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:20 pm. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: Grotting. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 4-0

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Johnson, Recording Secretary