

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 3, 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, McCoy, Grotting, and Betts

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Services Director Simon, City Attorney Vose

VISITORS: Zeglin, Representative Kristin Robbins, Deb from Republic Services, Jason with Waste Management

4. Representative Kristin Robbins (House District 37A) – Annual Legislative Update.

Rep Robbins explained that there was a \$17.5B surplus and that all of it was spent. Each person with an income under \$75k would have received \$260/person. The distributions have all been made. Anyone that has not received a check should call the number on Department of Revenue website or call Kristin Robbins' office. The envelope came from Montana and that was not mentioned to the public. MN raised taxes \$9.8B and the budget increased by 38% over the next 2 years. She is concerned about future deficits.

She mentioned that the mandates for schools and businesses were disappointing. She said they did get funding for \$300M for nursing homes. In the last year there have been 15 nursing homes that have closed down and soon to be 2 more. There was \$425k given to Haven Homes here in Maple Plain. There was \$450k given for the Town Line railroad crossing, \$3M to pave Greenfield Rd and \$6M to Maple Grove community center. Corcoran was also given \$10M for the water project.

She said she has been working closely with WHPS chief Kroells on the public safety aid. Kroells was the one person in the state to realize that they had left out joint power agreements in this aid.

She mentioned that car jacking and organized retail theft is now a crime, which it wasn't previously. Police are now also allowed to aggravate charges for domestic abuse.

If residents have received letters regarding applying for an easement for the Luce Line from the DNR, they should disregard. After discussing this, the easements are already in place and residents do not need to do this.

McCoy asked about the Orono student that went to the Department and met with the officer in Corcoran. Rep Robbins said that this student is very bright, and it was her own idea. If someone was in a car accident and has a family member at home that needs looking after, she wanted a way to notify the 1<sup>st</sup> responders to go check on that person at the home. She asked the department to create a voluntary notification list so that police would notify people at the home and be able to take care of those in need.

She noted that ESST (Employee Sick and Safe Time) bill takes effect January 1<sup>st</sup>. Reporting requirements are confusing.

Mayor Johnson stated his appreciation for all of Robbins hard work and communication.

5. **\*\*\*\*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 September 6, 2023, City Council Special Meeting and Workshop.
- b. Approval of City Council Minutes from the September 19, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting.
- c. Approval of Accounts Payable (Batch # 1; Checks Numbered 22318-22326)

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by McCoy to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 5.0**

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

7. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

**Grotting attended the following meetings:**

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

**Spencer attended the following meetings:**

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

**McCoy attended the following meetings:**

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
- Funeral for David Liesch

**Betts attended the following meetings:**

- City Workshop
- HWY 55 coalition
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

**Johnson attended the following meetings:**

- HC Healthy Living Community
- New Hope Mayors Meeting

- David Liesch funeral
- Commissioner Anderson & Chief at Rogers Juvenile Justice panel meeting
- Meeting with resident Dolores Ahlstrom

**Kaltsas attended the following meetings:**

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

**Simon attended the following meetings:**

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

8. Consider Approval of Citywide Recycling Contract Award:

- a. **RESOLUTION NO. 23-1003-01** – Awarding approval of the City’s Recycling Contract.

Kaltsas explained that our 3-year contract with Randy’s/Republic is coming to an end on December 31, 2023 so the city went out to solicit new bids. The city has to offer city wide recycling to our residents. He said he knew there was going to be an increase in recycling services for commodity pricing. The city went out for RFP’s and received 3 proposals back from Curbside, Republic and Waste Management. Our contract states that pickup is biweekly and is single sort recycling. Republic Services would be a 3 year with 5% increase annually. We currently have about 1400 households in the city. Waste Management came in competitively but could not meet the Friday pick up that we currently offer. Kaltsas recommended staying with Republic Services for a January 1, 2024 start date.

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by McCoy to approve RESOLUTION 23-1003-01 Awarding approval of the City’s Recycling Contract to Republic Services. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 5.0**

9. Open/Misc.

The Zeglins are in the process of selling their land at Nelson and Hwy 12 and upon title search, they found that there was an assessment on the property that was from a project in 1991 for a road project for \$8,668 at 8.5% interest over the course of 30 years due to a deferred assessment from the property being enrolled in Green Acres. The balance today is over \$125,000 to pay off.

The Zeglins are asking the city for some understanding about why the tax statements never showed that there was an assessment balance on the property.

Spencer stated that when the property was transferred over from their parents, they never went through a title company for a complete closing, therefore a title search was never done on the property which would have picked it up immediately. He also stated that the tax statements are not from the city, but from Hennepin County directly.

Zeglins are asking for a way to decrease this amount or pay from the time of the transfer of deed.

Johnson stated that this is all a learning experience for the Council, staff and residents to be aware of any assessments on their property and not to opt into deferring assessments on your properties.

Johnson asked that Zeglins look through their documentation to see if there is any proof that the assessment was paid at the time and also asked staff to look through old records and minutes to see if there is anything the city can find.

10. Adjourn.

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by Grotting to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 8:06 pm. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Spencer, Grotting, and Betts. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 5.0**

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Simon, Recording Secretary