



CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2024

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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 January 16, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch # 1; Checks Numbered 22584-22595, Batch # 2; Checks Numbered 22597-22607 and Batch # 3; Checks Numbered 22608-22620) NOTE: Check Numbered 22596 was voided due to printing error.

5. Set Agenda – Anyone Not on the Agenda can be Placed Under Open/Misc.

6. Reports of Boards and Committees by Council and Staff.

7. Public Safety Aid – West Suburban Fire District Request for Funding.

8. Open/Misc.

9. Adjourn.



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 2024

**6:30 PM REGULAR MEETING**

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, Councilors Spencer and Grotting

Absent: Councilors Betts and McCoy

Staff: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Services Director Simon and WHPS Director of Public Safety Kroells

Visitors: See Sign-in Sheet

4. **\*\*\*\*Consent Agenda\*\*\*\***

All items listed under Consent Agenda are considered 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 January 2, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch # 1; Checks Numbered 22544-22564, Batch # 2; Checks Numbered 22565-22582).

Added Check number 22583 to accounts payable

Grotting asked about payroll technology. Is there a way we can look at that is it one of those sleeper things. It is a line item.

Johnson – that is reviewed every pay period.

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Spencer to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts and McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

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:

None

Spencer attended the following meetings:

Hwy 12 safety coalition meeting

Meeting with Public works staff

Johnson attended the following meetings:

Medina Fire District Meeting

Regional Council of Mayors

Orono School Board Meeting

Maple Plain Chamber of Commerce

NW League of Municipalities

Tom Mich Funeral

Meeting with Kerry Meyer Hennepin County Judge

Simon attended the following meetings:

None

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

Medina Fire District Meeting

7. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Gary Kroells: Presentation of the December 2023 Activity Report.

Busy month with a total of 369 Incident Complaints (240 Independence) / (102 Maple Plain). 8 criminal complaints in Independence. End of year over 5000 incidents. See full police report. Looking for a couple part time officers and having much more success with that.

8. Annual City Council Appointments.

a. **RESOLUTION 24-0116-01** - Annual Organizational Appointments.

Johnson - We can cross off Delano Fire Dept. Betts would like to appoint McCoy in her place into the police commission. Recommended talking to him and McCoy is willing to serve on that. Does anyone else have any changes?

**Motion by Grotting, seconded by Spencer to approve the appointments with corrections as noted. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts and McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

Kroells – a week from today we have a police commission meeting. Will Ray be here?

Johnson – anyone can represent if he is not in town.

- b. **RESOLUTION 24-0116-02** - Approval of Planning Commission Reappointment.

Reappointment of Planning Commission Members - Anita Volkenant and Steve Thompson.

Steve Thompson has been on the Planning Commission 10-years, Anita Volkenant 5-years.

Johnson – has anyone made application?

Kaltsas – no, just the alternates a while back.

Johnson – someone reached out to ask about how to get involved. I told them to stop in and fill out an application.

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Grotting to approve the re-appointments for Steve Thompson and Anita Vokenant for the next 3 years. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts and McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

9. Annual Fee Schedule Adoption.

- a. **RESOLUTION 24-0116-03** - Annual Fee Schedule Adoption.

Johnson – do we have any changes from staff recommendations other than sewer?

Kaltsas – sewer and type 2 planning application to increase the escrow. Type 2 is commercial or subdivision, are much more complicated. We are hitting or coming in below so we don't want to bill them.

Johnson – how many people do we still have on sewer that pay the availability fee.

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by Grotting to approve resolution 24-0116-03 Annual Fee Adoption. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts and McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

10. Signature Authorization of Administrative Services Director.

- a. **RESOLUTION 24-0116-04** – Authorizing Administrative Services Director as Signatory on City Accounts.

Johnson – making sure Amber Simon is a signatory on the account.

Kaltsas – previous employee was a signatory, and then when we moved the position, we need to put her back on and to do her job. I will give one extra signatory if we need it. All our checks and accounts we have two signing lines on it. You will need to have two people sign.

**Motion by Grotting, seconded by Spencer to approve the resolution 24-0116-04 Authorizing the Administrative Services Director as signatory on city accounts. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts and McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

11. Consideration of Public Works Tandem Axel Truck Purchase for 2024.

Kaltsas – these pieces of equipment keep going up. We have been budgeting for a new tandem truck that could be put into service for plowing and hauling rock. We have a road grader that we did a major overhaul to that is a primary use. The cost of repairing that is a lot and it isn't as good to plow with. You can't put salt down at the same time you plow. We projected a need for this one from \$200k and now it went up to \$326k. We programmed 326k in capital. The soonest we could get it mid 2025 if we ordered today. The Mack truck purchased in 2020, that is 36-48 months out to obtain a new truck. We are running a capital plan with deficit in 2025 of \$90k. Vendors say the prices are not going down, will continue to rise. We will pay another \$30k if we wait until February.

Johnson – so they will hold the price?

Kaltsas- by placing the order, they lock in the price. Cab and chassis and tow masters for the outfit. When we take possession, we pay for it. I like capital plan/budget to track with our expenditures. The city is in a good position to loan ourselves the \$90k until 2026. Next year when we take possession.

Bode – JC Heavy and Gary's Diesel don't recommend the freight liner.

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by Grotting to approve purchase of the new Tandem Axel Truck for 2024 Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts and McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

12. Open/Misc. (March 5, Meeting Date Change Discussion – Due to Election).

Johnson – because of the new PNP election, we need to reschedule the meeting.

Kaltsas – having a singular meeting that month.

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Spencer to cancel the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week meetings March and have one meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts and McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

13. Open/Misc.

HERC – people are pushing to close the garbage incinerator and start hauling to landfills again. IT stems with the legislature themselves trying to push to get to zero emissions. Our county commissioner asked for letters from the cities saying that we don't want it to close

until we have a better alternative for getting rid of garbage. I would like to see us get a letter to send to the county commissioner saying we would like to see the use of the HERC plant continued until there is a better solution to where the garbage would go.

Grotting – I would speak in favor of that. Any recycling that isn't clean and clear, it is shipped overseas and burned at the cement factories. It's the same world. We can't just feel better because we are shipping it overseas.

Spencer – not having an alternative site takes years and to close it without having something prepared would be questionable. I would support that too.

Mayor Johnson and Mark Kaltsas to draft a letter to the County Commissioner opposing the closing of the HERC facility in Minneapolis until better alternatives are available to manage Hennepin County's waste.

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by Grotting for Johnson and Kaltsas to draft letter to the County Commissioner opposing the closing of the HERC facility in Minneapolis until there are better alternatives available to manage Hennepin Countys waste. Ayes: Johnson, Spence, Grotting and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: Betts. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3**

14. Adjourn.

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by Grotting to Adjourn meeting at 7:25pm. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts and McCoy. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Solien, Recording Secretary

## City of Independence

### Public Safety Aid Distributions

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*To:* City Council  
*From:* Mark Kaltsas, City Administrator  
*Meeting Date:* February 6, 2024

#### ***Discussion:***

The City of Independence received a one-time payment of public safety aid funding from the state with specific guidance relating to its usage. The City received a total of \$174,470.17. The City reviewed the funding and determined that the most equitable distribution would be to allocate the funds between police and fire based on a pro rata percentage which correlates to the annual budget for each entity.

The City has determined that the allocation would be broken down as follows:

West Hennepin Public Safety:	<b>\$130,852.00</b>
Maple Plain Fire Department:	<b>\$30,532.72</b>
West Suburban Fire District:	<b>\$13,085.45</b>

The WHPS Commission voted at its last meeting to allocate the proportional share of the aforementioned funding to WHPS in a lump sum payment. The money will be utilized by WHPS in accordance with their 2024 budget and capital plans.

At the West Suburban Fire District Meeting held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, a request was made to provide public safety aid funding for the purpose of purchasing new SCBA apparatus (self-contained breathing apparatus). Based on the funding breakdown provided, Independence could offer WSFD \$13,085.45 for this purpose.

It should be noted that the funding has been discussed at the Maple Plain Fire Commission Meetings and no recommendation for payment or use has been made at this time. Future consideration for the appropriation of the remaining funds would be considered following a recommendation from the MPFD Commission.

#### ***Council Recommendation:***

City Council is being asked to consider approval of the payment of public safety aid funding to the West Suburban Fire District in the amount of \$13,085.45.