

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020 –6:30 P.M.

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

3. Swearing in of newly elected Mayor and Council Members.

4. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Councilors Betts, McCoy, Grotting and Spencer

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Assistant to Administrator Horner, City Attorney Vose, Public Works Supervisor Bode

VISITORS: WHPS Director Kroells, Pete Kittock

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 December 12, 2019 City Council Special Meeting and Workshop.
- b. Approval of City Council Minutes from the December 17, 2019 Regular City Council Meeting.
- c. Approval of Accounts Payable; Checks Numbered 19332-19370.
- d. Set the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting for Tuesday, April 7, 2020.
- e. 4th Qtr. Building Permit Report – For Information.

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

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

7. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- None

Grotting attended the following meetings:

- None

McCoy attended the following meetings:

- None

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Police Commission Meeting

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Police Commission Meeting
- Visit with June Sutton (oldest resident of Independence)
- Met with Gina Piazza-Ward
- Met with Tom Emmer in Otsego
- Request from Congressman Phillips to meet with a farmer on January 22nd

Horner attended the following meetings:

- None

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

- None

8. Annual City Council Appointments.

- a. **RESOLUTION 20-0107-01** - Annual Council Appointments.
- b. **RESOLUTION 20-0107-02** - Approval of Planning Commission Appointments.

Each year the City selects Council Members, consultants and staff to serve the City and fill roles supporting boards and commissions. The Council has the discretion to make appointments as necessary. The various positions are identified on the attached schedule. Council appointments that have typically changed on an annual basis are highlighted on the attached appointment schedule.

In addition to the Council appointments, there are two Planning Commission terms that expired at the end of 2019. Both Lieth Dumas and Tom Palmquist have offered to continue serving the City on the Planning Commission for another three-year term. Council will need to consider reappointment of both Planning Commissioners.

Requested Action:

It is recommended that the City Council discuss and approve the official 2020 appointments by adopting RESOLUTION No. 20-0107-01. It is further recommended that City Council consider the reappointment of Lieth Dumas and Tom Palmquist to a new three-year Planning Commission Term by adopting RESOLUTION No. 20-0107-02.

Motion by Spencer, second by McCoy to approve RESOLUTION 20-0107-01 - Annual Council Appointments. Ayes: Johnson, Grotting, Betts, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Motion by Grotting, second by McCoy to approve RESOLUTION 20-0107-02 - Approval of Planning Commission Appointments. Ayes: Johnson, Grotting, Betts, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

9. Discussion Relating to Highway 12 and County Road 92 Intersection Improvements Project

- a. **RESOLUTION 20-0107-03** – Approving Local Support and Municipal Consent for Preferred Design Alternative.

Kaltsas stated Staff has been working with MNDOT and Hennepin County to better understand the potential benefits and limitations of Alternative 3a with a bypass. The City has spent the last couple of months trying to find solutions that would allow Alternative 4G to become feasible or to secure additional funding. To this point Hennepin County and MNDOT have not been willing to explore ways to realize development of Alternative 4G. Staff has also met with several outside engineering firms to review the alternatives and analyze the findings, benefits and potential limitations of both alternatives. Staff has identified the following key points for Council consideration:

Alternative 3A with bypass will increase the average daily commute of eastbound traffic by 8-12 seconds per vehicle over Alternative 4G. Westbound traffic will have the same or negligible difference during peak times. In either alternative, the level of service (functionality) of the road will not drop below a high level of service. Alternative 3A with bypass will increase the potential daily conflicts (potential crashes) over Alternative 4G by approximately 60 per day. With either alternative, the potential daily conflicts versus the current road is greatly reduced. There will likely be an increase in the local cost to administer (police) the intersection for Alternative 3A with bypass. It is difficult to quantify the actual cost but based on discussions with police departments with similar intersections, the number of incidents will increase.

The City was concerned about limiting the future mobility of the corridor with Alternative 3A with bypass. Based on a variety of conversations, both alternatives will allow the expansion of the corridor in the future. The overpass is being designed to accommodate a four-lane intersection. If a four-lane intersection is considered, the roundabout could potentially be designed as a four-lane intersection. The bond funding that was secured to develop this project has an expiration date of approximately 4 years from the date of approval (May 2017 approval, May 2021 expiration). As a result of this limitation and the time required to design, acquire right of way and bid this project, the City will need to act on approving an alternative if we want to realize an improved intersection and corridor.

Staff will review in more detail, the additional discussions relating to the intersection, design, limitations and benefits that were discussed over the past month at the City Council Meeting. Based on the discussions that have been had and the unwillingness of MNDOT and Hennepin County to fund Alternative 4G, staff will be recommending that the Council approve Alternative 3A with bypass.

McCoy asked the proposed capacity and are on/off ramps a potential down the road if needed. Kaltsas said there is a projected volume and this round-about is designed to accommodate that estimation which is peak flow. He noted round-about capacity could be increased to four lanes if needed in the future. An overpass solution would probably not be economically feasible as it would require two bridges and ramps. McCoy said he is concerned the capacity will be exceeded quickly and he prefers the 4G solution but will concede to this plan to make it happen. McCoy asked who would own the circle in the middle for maintenance. Kaltsas said the ROW acquisition has not yet been identified. McCoy asked about the local street on the south side of Highway 12. Kroells said he thought it would be considered a city street.

Grotting said it would be good for the viewing audience to understand why a round-about has been determined to be better than a controlled intersection. Kaltsas said the City has been involved in all discussions and the ultimate purpose is to make it as safe and possible. A round-about was graded the highest overall in

safety. A controlled intersection would doesn't have the same rating and there is a higher chance of fatal incidents. 4G scored the same but this option is more cost effective. Johnson noted there is still hope for additional funds, but we don't want to lose the support we got at this time.

Motion by Betts, second by Spencer to approve RESOLUTION 20-0107-03 – Approving Local Support and Municipal Consent for Preferred Design Alternative. Ayes: Johnson, Grotting, Betts, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

10. Meeting Date Change for the March 3, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting to Accommodate the Presidential Nominating Primary.

Kaltsas said the first April City Council Meeting (March 3rd) falls on the same date as the 2020 Presidential Nominating Primary. The City will need to reschedule the Council Meeting. The City has the option to reschedule the meeting to another date. Staff is seeking direction from Council on several alternative dates?

Monday, March 2nd
Monday, March 9th

Motion by Betts, second by Spencer to approve City Council meeting date change from March 3rd to March 2nd, 2020. Ayes: Johnson, Grotting, Betts, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

11. Adjourn.

Motion by McCoy, second by Grotting to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Ayes: Johnson, Grotting, Betts, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trish Gronstal/ Recording Secretary