

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 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. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Councilor Grotting, City Attorney Vose

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Assistant to Administrator Horner

VISITORS: Anita Volkenant, Bob Volkenant, Brian VanBeusekom

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 7, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; Checks Numbered 19371-19404.
- c. Approve Mayor and Council Member Attendance at the League of Minnesota Cities Experienced Leaders Conference.

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

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Next Generation Kick-Off Meeting

Grotting attended the following meetings:

- None

McCoy attended the following meetings:

- None

Betts attended the following meetings:

- West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Highway 12 Corridor Coalition Meeting

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Northwest League of Municipalities Meeting
- Highway 12 Corridor Coalition Meeting
- Regional Council of Mayors Meeting
- Ali Howe swearing in at Orono School Board Meeting
- West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Orono Healthy Youth Meeting
- EENR Committee Conference Call Meeting for the National League of Cities
- Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Next Generation Kick-Off Meeting
- Joy Robb funeral (former Mayor of Robbinsdale)

Horner attended the following meetings:

- West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

- None

7. West Hennepin Public Safety Director, Gary Kroells, December 2019 Monthly Report.

Kroells stated there were a total of 6,491 incident complaints reported for Independence and Maple Plain through the end of 2019. For the month of December; 247 incidents occurred in Independence and 132 incidents were in Maple Plain.

for a complete report see the City Council packet

8. Annual Consideration of Fee Schedule Amendments.

A. **RESOLUTION 20-0121-01** – Considering the Annual Update to the City’s Fee Schedule.

Kaltsas said the City annually reviews and adopts the City’s fee schedule to ensure that the cost of providing various services is commensurate with the services provided. The City identified several fees that should be amended based on the costs of providing services and or administration of the fees in 2019. In addition, the City will increase quarterly sewer charges in accordance with the adopted Sewer Rate Study. After several years of steeper sewer rate increases, the City’s anticipated sewer rates are beginning to flatten with more typical increases recommended. The following fees are proposed to be amended:

1. Right of way permit \$100 (\$75 in 2019)

2. Zoning Permit fee. The City reviews sheds and agriculture buildings for compliance with zoning ordinances (i.e. – setbacks, wetland impacts, height limitations, grading, etc.) even though a building permit is not required. The City typically spends ½ to 1 hour to review and approve these site plans. The City has been charging the review under miscellaneous services but would like to include the fee in the fee schedule.

a. Shed (120 SF or less), Ag Buildings \$40 (not specified previously)

3. Quarterly sewer charges are proposed to be amended in accordance with the City’s sewer charge study that was updated in January of 2017. The City is in the process of updating the study for 2020. The updated study will be presented at an upcoming Council Meeting. The quarterly sewer fees will be amended for 2020 as follows:

- a. Quarterly sewer access charge \$231 (\$220 in 2019)
- b. Quarterly availability charge \$200 (\$150 in 2019)

Kaltsas noted there is an escrow added for assembly permits as a deposit for WHPS services. The deposit will be \$500. Kroells said there are several events that take place every year throughout the City that are on a large-scale requiring police presence. This escrow will ensure WHPS does not have to go back and collect after the event to recoup pay to cover police hours.

Johnson asked if SAC charges are increasing this year. Kaltsas noted they have not increased.

Motion by Betts, second by McCoy to approve RESOLUTION 20-0121-01 – Adopting the Annual Update to the City’s Fee Schedule. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: Grotting. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

9. Open/Misc.

Brian VanBeusekom, 4985 Klaers Drive, said he was approached by a solar company about putting panels on his property. Johnson noted the Planning Commission has had several meetings about solar and felt that the City should remain limited due to public comments. He said the ordinance is in place for now and would have to be amended before any large solar gardens would be allowed in the City. Spencer noted residents were strongly opposed to solar panels in the City when it was presented several years ago. Kaltsas said community solar gardens are strictly prohibited. Council encouraged Mr. VanBeusekom to talk further with the Utility company and Administrator Kaltsas.

10. Adjourn.

Motion by Spencer, second by McCoy to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: Grotting. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trish Gronstal/ Recording Secretary