

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 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. via zoom video call.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: City Attorney Vose

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

VISITORS: WHPS Chief Kroells

3. ****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 May 28, 2020 City Council Special Meeting.
- b. Approval of City Council Minutes from the June 2, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting.
- c. Approval of Accounts Payable; Checks Numbered 19671-19702.

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

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

Spencer added a discussion item regarding a Planning Commissioner posting erroneous information.

5. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Jordan Spencer's graduation
- Various conversations with residents about Lake Independence's high-water level

Grotting attended the following meetings:

- None to report

McCoy attended the following meetings:

- None to report

Betts attended the following meetings:

- West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce Meeting (via Zoom)
- Micki Hay’s funeral

Johnson attended the following meetings:

(all meetings were via zoom)

- National League of Cities- two meetings
- National League of Cities Small Cities Conference
- West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Northwest League of Municipalities Meeting
- Dave Thill’s retirement drive-by
- National League of Cities Resource Meeting

Horner attended the following meetings:

- None to report

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

- MnDOT and Hennepin County Highway 12 Update Meeting

6. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Gary Kroells: Presentation of the May 2020 Activity Report.

Kroells stated that at the end of May West Hennepin Public Safety handled a year-to-date total of 2,091 incidents. For the month of May, 260 were in Independence and 122 in the City of Maple Plain.

for a complete report see the packet online

7. National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program.

- a. **RESOLUTION 20-0616-01:** Authorizing City to Enter into a Marketing Agreement Offering the Program to Residents.

Kaltsas noted The National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program, offered by Utility Service Partners, a HomeServe Company, was conceived in partnership with the National League of Cities to educate property owners about their service line responsibilities and to help residents avoid the out-of-pocket expense for unanticipated and potentially costly service line repairs and replacements. The program, the only one of its kind endorsed by the NLC and members of the League of Minnesota Cities Business Leadership Council, will help the City of Independence to achieve its goals by:

- Providing homeowners affordable protection against significant and unexpected costs to remedy leaking/broken/ clogged water lines, sewer lines, and in-home plumbing lines
- Ensuring the delivery of timely, high-quality repair services in adherence to all applicable codes
- Providing exemplary service that reflects positively on the City
- The program generates an ongoing, sustainable source of revenue for the City and stimulates the local economy by using fully vetted local area contractors to complete the repairs
- The City will receive a royalty of \$0.50 per product per month for the duration of the program.

COVERAGE: NLC Service Line Warranty Program offers three complete and separate voluntary programs. There is never a service fee/deductible or annual or lifetime limit. Residents can cancel the

warranties at any time.

Exterior Water Service Line: Includes service to locate, excavate and repair/replace a leaking exterior water service line. Covered repairs include, but are not limited to leaks, breaks, corrosion, blockages, root intrusion, and other types of damage (such as from freezing) that impair or limit the intended function of the system. Includes thawing of frozen water lines. Includes restoration of ground surface features after excavation for service line repair, including filling, raking, reseeding, reinstallation of existing soft landscaping and shrubbery and patching of paved surfaces.

Exterior Sewer Includes services to locate, excavate and repair/replace a leaking exterior sewer service line. Covered repairs include, but are not limited to leaks, breaks, corrosion, blockages (due to fats, oils and grease), root intrusion, and other types of damage (such as from freezing) that impair or limit the intended function of the system. Includes restoration of ground surface features after excavation for service line repair, including filling, raking, reseeding, reinstallation of existing soft landscaping and shrubbery, and patching of paved surfaces.

Internal Plumbing and Drainage: Coverage includes the emergency breakdown costs of repairing or replacing interior water, sewer, and drainage pipe materials, valves and other plumbing-related material, including unblocking, repair and replacement. Repair of clogged toilets.

Implementation: The NLC Service Line Program will utilize the City logo to brand the materials used to educate City customers about our repair service plans. Program marketing literature clearly discloses that the Program and the City are separate entities and that the program is voluntary for residents. The NLC Service Line Warranty Program will create all marketing materials with input from the City and will submit all marketing/communications materials to the City for final approval.

Financial Impact: No cost to the city to participate and the City would receive \$0.50 per product per month royalty.

Conclusion: Staff recommends that the City Council discuss and approve **RESOLUTION 20-0616-01** City should enter into the Royalty Marketing Agreement.

Johnson noted Watertown has used this service for several years and wondered what the participation rate was there. Kaltsas said he was not sure but knew a lot of those residents had a lot of gaps in their services which makes this an attractive option for coverage.

Grotting asked about private well and septic coverage and maybe appropriate for a larger system. Kaltsas said the City is not getting involved beyond providing marketing leveraging to them and it is endorsed by the National League of Cities which allows them to market if Council approves. Spencer noted homeowners can receive a surprise bill so many could benefit from it.

Betts asked if it was only for around the lakes. Kaltsas said they offer other services as well addressing septic systems and in-home plumbing.

Motion by McCoy, second by Spencer to approve RESOLUTION 20-0616-01: Authorizing City to Enter into a Marketing Agreement Offering the Program to Residents approved by the National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

8. Review and Approve Covid-19 Preparedness Plan in Accordance with Executive Order 20-48.

Kaltsas said the City Council is required to approve preparedness plan in accordance with Executive Order 20-48. Staff has prepared a plan to meet the requisite order. The plan outlines basic processes and procedures for ensuring the safety of our employees and visitors as we begin reopening City Hall. In general, staff will continue to operate in a manner that limits exposure, maintains recommended protocols and provides the highest level of service to our residents.

Motion by Johnson, second by Grotting to approve Covid-19 Preparedness Plan in Accordance with Executive Order 20-48. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy, Spencer and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

9. OPEN/MISC.

Spencer noted a recent social media posting by a Planning Commissioner Member containing many inaccurate comments specifically that portrays the City as “anti-agricultural”. Spencer asked if the attorney was aware of the postings and Kaltsas stated the City attorney was aware and it will be pulled from the agenda until a future date as all information is collected.

10. ADJOURN.

Motion by Spencer, second by McCoy to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Grotting, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trish Gronstal/ Recording Secretary