

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 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.

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: None

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

VISITORS: Chris Knopik (CLA), Chief Kroells (remote)

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 July 7, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; Checks Numbered 19739-19773.
- c. Approval of Solicitors Permit for *Zoes Gone Bananas* at Pioneer Creek Golf Course.
- d. Authorize Staff to Initiate Request for Proposals for Recycling Contract.

Motion by Betts, second by McCoy 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.

5. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Highway 12 Safety Coalition

Grotting attended the following meetings:

- None

McCoy attended the following meetings:

- None

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Highway 12 Safety Coalition

Johnson attended the following meetings:

(all meetings were via zoom)

- National League of Cities Small Cities Conference
- Highway 12 Safety Coalition
- Regional Council of Mayors Meeting
- Met with Mayor of Maple Plain and Orono School Superintendent
- Westonka Historical Society Meeting
- Haven Homes Tour
- EENR of NLC Webinar
- Met with CLA
- Call regarding Highway 12 improvements
- Several calls about tower

Horner attended the following meetings:

- BKV meetings regarding remodel

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

- BKV meetings regarding remodel

6. Presentation of the 2019 Financial Audit – Chris Knopik, Clifton Larson Allen.

- a. 2019 Draft Financial Audit
- b. 2019 Audit Presentation

Knopik stated the city got a clean audit report. He noted a slight increase in expenses and said the General Fund Revenues were the largest piece of the general fund. Knopik said the next items fall under licenses/permits and the miscellaneous category includes conduit debt. Knopik said public safety saw an increase this year as well as public works and staff. Because a high percentage of Independence residents pay their taxes on time we have very low delinquent taxes. Knopik said the reserve is getting built back up.

Knopik discussed the sanitary sewer fund. He said depreciation has been flat and the operating income deficit is 138k. He noted that we are monitoring rates for sewer. There were no difficulties during this audit and no internal control problems.

Johnson asked about the Met Council Loretto sewer connection and the reimbursement in 2021. He noted the separation of duties which is hard to do with a small city. Kaltsas said the rate increase from Met Council for next year is very small and we will get reimbursement for maintenance of the system beginning in 2021.

Spencer thanked Knopik and noted that this is the first time there were no comments and unmodified as well. He congratulated staff on a job well done.

Motion by Spencer, second by Grotting to accept the audit report as presented by Knopik with Clifton Larson Allen. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy, Grotting and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

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

for a complete report see the City Council packet

Kroells outlined the June 2020 activity report. He noted the numbers are pretty even with last year at this time for incidents. Kroells noted the increase in traffic as people are returning to work.

Kroells addressed use of force reform and how WHPS is addressing this issue. He noted the newsletter article that outlined the best practices WHPS has implemented including Lexipol. Kroells noted the entire policy is posted on the WHPS website and illustrates how the department is dedicated to transparency. The officers put in 60 hours of training each year which is way more than is required. Kroells stated they are very proud to serve Independence and Maple Plain and noted they have never received a use of force complaint.

Johnson said he hopes the department feels the support from not only the City Council but also the citizens. Kroells said they do feel the support and was grateful.

Grotting asked about the amount of mental health calls versus police calls. Kroells said they handle 50-75 calls a year that would most likely be under the mental health criteria, but the police end up handling it as those agencies are not always available especially if it is after hours. Grotting commended WHPS for the way in which they handle these situations.

8. OPEN/MISC.

9. ADJOURN.

Motion by Grotting, second by Betts to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Grotting, Spencer and McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trish Gronstal/ Recording Secretary