

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 – 7:30 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 7:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Councilors Betts, Fisher, Spencer, and Wenck.

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Clerk-Administrator Hirsch, City Attorney Vose

VISITORS: Jerry Wise

4. CONSENT AGENDA.

Approve:

- Approval of City Council Minutes from August 21, 2012
- Approval of Accounts Payable for September, 2012
- Approval of the Year to date budget report ending in the Month of August, 2012.
- Approval of Resolution No. 12-0911-01 Revising the bid opening date in the matter of Vinland Center Sanitary Sewer Expansion
- Approval of Resolution No. 12-0911-02 Certifying amounts owed to the City.
- Approval of Resolution No. 12-0911-03 Requesting the Metropolitan Council to Study Interceptor Service for Loretto, Independence, Greenfield, Northwest Medina and Western Corcoran.
- Approval of Resolution No. 12-0911-04 Supporting the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC) in its efforts to extend Fiber Optic Cable to Independence Businesses/Residences and lower the home per mile threshold in the agreement with Mediacom to enable city-wide access to broadband services.

Motion by Wenck, seconded by Fisher, to approve the Consent Agenda as printed. Ayes: Mayor Johnson, Betts, Fisher, Spencer, and Wenck. Nays: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

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

Jerry Wise added to discuss the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Budget for 2013.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Two City budget work sessions
- Planning Commission Meeting

Wenck attended the following meetings:

- Two City budget work sessions

Fisher attended the following meetings:

- Two City budget work sessions

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Fire Commission Meeting
- Police Commission Meeting
- Two City budget work sessions
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Two City budget work sessions
- Minnehaha Watershed Board Meeting
- New school in New Hope for special needs students ribbon cutting
- Snowmobile organization picnic in Corcoran
- League of Minnesota Cities Committee Meeting
- Hennepin County Resilience Meeting in Minnetonka
- Fire Commission Meeting
- Police Commission Meeting
- Hennepin County Extension Committee
- Chamber of Commerce
- Committee meeting for Senior Community Services

Hirsch attended the following meetings:

- Meeting with Jerry Wise and Lisa Whalen regarding the Pioneer-Sarah Budget items
- Two City budget work sessions
- Fire Commission Meeting
- Police Commission Meeting
- Real estate agent meeting regarding two different parties interested in a lot in the Tamerack division
- Hennepin County Resilience Meeting in Minnetonka
- Xcel Energy conversation regarding energy saving options
- Met with the City of Medina staff regarding the Met Council and sewer line discussion.
- Hennepin County election recap meeting in the City Hall community room with 30 other city clerks from around the area.

Johnson asked about the absentee ballot process and how the results are tallied.

Hirsch described the steps and explained how it has changed over the last two years. She stated Hennepin County now tallies up the absentee votes after the city delivers them. She also stated the absentee ballot process has become a lot more complicated.

7. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO 12-0911-05 APPROVING THE 2013 PRELIMINARY BUDGER AND LEVY:

Johnson stated this is the maximum amount, and the final figures for the levy are due December 28th, 2012.

Johnson stated the resolution for this is a 4.6% increase. He said his hopes were to keep it at no more than 2%; however, at this point he doesn't want to go that low until he has some more figures.

Betts stated she was comfortable at leaving it as this, as there is still time to work it down.

Wenck agreed with this as well, but hopes to be able to lower it similar to last year and get some public input.

Johnson stated he's ok with it for now, but wants some wiggle room to work with it.

The resolution is for \$2,405,434 included all the bonds.

Motion by Wenck, second by Betts to adopt Resolution No. 12-0911-05. Approving the preliminary 2013 Budget and Levy Ayes; Mayor Johnson, Council members Betts, Fisher, Spencer, and Wenck; Nays; None, Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

8. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF SETTING THE TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012 AT 6:30PM

After further discussion by the Council, it was agreed that a 7:00 p.m. meeting made the most sense.

Motion by Betts, second by Fisher to schedule the Truth in Taxation Meeting for Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Ayes; Mayor Johnson, Council members Betts, Fisher, Spencer, and Wenck; Nays; None, Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

9. MISC./OPEN

PIONEER SARAH CREEK WASTERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, JERRY WISE PRESENTING THE COMMISSIONS PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET.

Wise stated the assessment will be larger for the year. It's up \$20,000 from the previous year for the entire area. He said the assessment has been relatively stable since 2006 even though the expenses have gone up; which is why there is now a larger increase.

Wise stated a large increase in expenses is due to technical support. He said the technical support from Hennepin County started charging for their work in 2011. The County's fee for technical support will be capped at \$19,500.

Wise stated the general expenses have increased due to more reporting. The general revenues interest and dividends are relatively nothing compared to previous years. He said they are working on administrative cost cuts and redistributing some of this work.

Johnson asked if Wise has contacted the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District regarding administrative expenses and assisting in some of the workload.

Wise stated he's spoken to other Watershed Districts about this and stated he will contact Minnehaha Watershed District to see if they can assist.

Johnson stated Wise may want to contact the executive director for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed Commission, Eric Evenson, for assistance.

Johnson inquired why the county now started charging for technical support.

Wise stated the County started charging all the Watersheds.

Wise stated they are applying for grants and they are contacting the Three Rivers Park District about their contributions.

Spencer asked about the City's portion of the assessment.

Wise stated Independence portion for 2013 is \$43,200.96; which is an increase of \$10,274 over last year. Independence is the largest contributor as it's the largest city in the district.

Betts asked about the grant process and how easy they are to obtain.

Wise stated grants are difficult to get. He said the grants that have been received are specific to projects, and it can take years to receive. So, projects get held up until grant money is received.

Wise stated he wanted to keep the Council informed.

10. Adjourn.

Motion by Spencer, second by Wenck to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:58 p.m. Ayes; Mayor Johnson, Council members Betts, Fisher, Spencer, and Wenck; Nays; None: Absent; None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene Nelson, Recording Secretary