



CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY AUGUST 20, 2024

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM

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

Mayor Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas. City Assistant Administrator Simon, and Director Kroells.

VISITORS: Judy Sutherland, Mendelle DeCamp

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 July 30, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of City Council Minutes from the August 7, 2024, Special City Council Meeting and Workshop.
- c. Approval of Accounts Payable (Batch #1; Checks Numbered 22987-22996, Batch #2; Checks Numbered 22997-23006, Batch #3; Checks Numbered 23007-23032 and Batch #4; Checks Numbered 23033-23058).

Motion by McCoy, seconded by Spencer to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrections suggested by Lynn Betts for the City Council minutes. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, Betts, Grotting and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 5.0

5. Set Agenda – Anyone Not on the Agenda can be Placed Under Open/Misc.

Churches wanting ideas on things to do for community and waste management committee and Judy Sutherland from MP museum.

6. Reports of Boards and Committees by Council and Staff.

Betts attended the following meetings:

Night to Unite (3 Houses)

Workshop

Battle of the Badges

Spencer attended the following meetings:

Meetings with Mayor Maas-Kusske, Ray and Chief Dennison for Fire Dept,

Tour de Tonka

Night 2 Unite (4 houses)

Budget Workshop

LMCC Budget

Election poll pad training

MP Fire Dept Budget meeting

Election judge for primary

Battle of the badges

LICA Board Meeting

Grotting attended the following meetings:

Planning Commission Meeting

Budget workshop

Night to Unite

McCoy attended the following meetings:

Budget workshop

Night to Unite (3 houses)

Fire Meeting Lunch

Johnson attended the following meetings:

Metro cities policy (zoom)

NLC environment committee (zoom)

MP museum annual pie social

Haven Homes Advisory Committee Meeting

Attended Marty Kirsch (former mayor of Richfield) funeral

Night to Unite (4 houses)

Budget Workshop

Haven Homes bus ribbon cutting

MP Fire Commission Meeting

Election judge for primary election

West Hennepin Pioneer Museum Long Lake annual meeting and dinner

Battle of the badges

Kaltsas attended the following meetings:

Battle of the badges

7. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Gary Kroells: Presentation of the July 2024 Activity Report.

July 2625 incident complaints – 259 Independence and 97 Maple Plain

8/1/24 Mika started full time officer

Tour de Tonka bike ride – Kroells worked it, great weather and turnout.

Polo Classic

Battle of the Badges

Working on 2 more hires with backgrounds

Lots of town line road traffic complaints – 2 more 40mph signs, possible shutting it down.

Repairing of the road possibly once work is done.

Brad Spencer-Why are they still closing part of 19, South of 11 all the way to Maple Plain. Why are there still signs up? It might be because they haven't completed the intersection.

Gary Kroells – That is a great question.

Betts – Town Line Road railroad repaired as well? I thought they were going to fix that.

Marving Johnson – Kent had mentioned working on it in the past, but not at the same time.

Mark Kaltsas – there are no plans in this project, but the cities did retain funds for a quiet zone. I have been working on that. IT would make improvements to that crossing.

Marvin Johnson – I thought people were driving at a reasonable speed. Times of the day that are worse.

Gary Kroells – I brought data before you, all areas show speed. It is a 4-5x volume increase on that road and consistent traffic. Someone came in and trimmed up all the trees, so it doesn't feel so tight. I don't think it will be done until late October. Let's put it on the workshop.

Marvin Johnson – is code red still working? Did you use it on gas line?

Gary Kroells – yes, I did use it on that issue. 1.5-2mi notification.

Marvin Johnson – the neighbors south on Game Farm Road and Luce Line Trail

Gary Kroell – we did view that. Half the road is Minnetrista and half is Independence. We are at 40 and Minnetrista is 35. We reduced ours to 35 to be consistent and we have the trail. We looked at Ingerson and considered doing the same and Minnetrista is 30. Put it at 35 for both.

8. Hennepin County – Joint Powers Agreement for Assessment Services.

Kaltsas – we have talked about this because of budgeting purposes. Hennepin County board approved 2025 budget cycle to take all Hennepin County Assessment services and pay for that out of tax dollars instead of individual cities. We contract with Hennepin County and we still have the choice how we tax properties. The cities have used Hennepin County to provide services tour residents. Hennepin County is offering Hennepin County assessment services to no charge to cities. That's an \$80k cost that the city incurs. New contract memorializes. Term of agreement is indefinite. There is a termination clause that allows either party to get out with a 90-day notification. Services are the same with no real change. They clarified certain aspects and city attorney reviewed this for several of their clients. We need to consider approving for free assessment services.

Marvin Johnson – what kind of information do we agree to provide to them?

Kaltsas – building permits, CUPs, improvements to properties. We give them access to our building permits to see what changes have been made.

Brad Spencer – some contract with indy assessors.

Kaltsas – if you continue to contract with a private entity, you'd have to have good reason for why you wouldn't use Hennepin County for free. Valuations seem to be on target but we get to decide that ultimately. What they have provided

Marvin Johnson – private assessor is still under watchful eye of Hennepin County assessor?

Kaltsas – yes but cities have the choice.

Motion by Spencer, second by Betts to approve Contract for Hennepin County for Joint Powers agreement for assessment services. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer and Betts McCoy and Grotting . Nays: None. Absent: None Abstain: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED 5-0

Kennedy Graven agreed on changes.

Steve Grotting- I'm surprised you can do it through the county or equivalent dollars would be shared with the municipality.

9. Open/Misc.

Marvin Johnson – there was an email from person on Polo Club Rd dealing with Mediacom changes?

Kaltsas – I don't think I did. I can look to see.

Marvin Johnson – enhancements coming at no cost to anyone.

Kaltsas – Polo Club Rd did get service all the way through so that might be the contact that was made?

Steve Grotting – there was someone complaining about the utility that was put in. Regular cable put in instead of high-speed fiber. Why would you do that? Is Midco in Polo Club?

Kaltsas – no but they want to come back to it with the whole city build out.

Judy Sutherland – president of the West Hennepin and Maple Plain Museum. In 1915 it was our local post office. Then it was the library. Marlys Lindholm and several others have restored it and brought it back to life. They did a wonderful job of redoing that. In Aug 2014 and filed to help protect it. It is well over 100 years old. City is hoping to sell the property. We are doing all we can to raise money. We have memberships 40-45 members. We are doing engraved bricks and sold a lot of those. Family names or in memory of so we can have a nice patio. We sell the cookbook. Last year we had a raffle for a quilt. We do ice cream social and sell buttons. We do need help from both cities.

Betts- where do you plan on moving the building?

Judy Sutherland – they want us to go over by the ballpark. Come see it. Lots of wonderful things in there.

Steve Grotting – how can a guy who moved the Shubert theatre not be able to move it?

Judy Sutherland – lumber is rotten. We can't move it; we have to rebuild. Need money to build a replica.

Marvin Johnson – my thought – even as old as it is,

Brad Spencer- all of the foundation is gone.

Judy Sutherland – we have tried to do all we can do. Adding plywood, pulling dirt away, etc.

Marvin Johnson – there is some law regarding how you can donate or if you can donate to organizations like this. There is a limit on what a city can actually do.

Kaltsas – we can talk about that at our budget workshop coming up.

Steve Grotting – do you have a website?

Judy Sutherland – no

Marvin Johnson – 1st Presbyterian and Lyndale – looking for projects wondering if there are things we can suggest. If we don't have anyone out walking city roads, county has people that can go out and pick up trash along city roads. If someone has some ideas that come to mind, Linda and Amber would appreciate them since they have called city hall wondering.

Hennepin County Solid Waste plan wants people approvals, corrections, changes by the 5th of September. Linda is representing the city at those meetings. She is concerned about the hands at the county with us being so small and what will be demanded of us.

Kaltsas – if there are comments, we can put that together and get it out to the county.

10. Adjourn.

Motion by Spencer, second by McCoy to adjourn at 7:22pm. Ayes: Johnson, Spencer, and Betts McCoy and Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Solien / Recording Secretary