

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.  
(West Hennepin Public Safety Conference Room)

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 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Johnson, Betts, McCoy  
ABSENT: Spencer, Grotting  
STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Services Director Simon,  
Chief Kroells

3. West Hennepin Public Safety

- a. Consider Amendment to Joint Powers Agreement Relating to Renewal Length.

Item came up at last Police Commission of the year. Do we want to change this contract that we talked about it recently to the time limit in the context that Gary turned in his retirement and going out for a new public safety director to get a longer guaranteed contract? Recommendation from Police Commission was initially a 3-year renewal, came to a 5-year initial contract length. We would sign a new contract with 5 years, and auto renewal in 3-year increments. Any city wanting to get out would need to give 3 years notice. At the end of 2 years, they would have to notice to get out of the 5 years. Two items changed and just those two lengths. Paragraph 18 (duration). From 3 to 5 years and then from 1 year to 3 years.

Betts pointed out that it says “Clerk” and should be changed to “Administrator”.

Betts – Did our attorneys looked at this?

Kaltsas – Yes.

Betts – The location and building did change. The way it’s worded, with the property being split, we should add a definition page. If you talk about Police Department, you are talking about the squads, their properties, etc. We understand that, but for others to clarify that it would help.

Kaltsas – In paragraph 17, we weren’t trying to change anything. This agreement was signed in 1995 and amended. We have supplemental agreement in 2002-2005 (offset agreement) that described the real estate, maintenance, etc. We should reference that now that that is in place.

Kroells – There have been some follow up emails from Maple Plain that are valid. 1995 words that are not politically correct now that they were. Police Commission was supposed to get a stronger contract for both cities and the incoming Director can see that there is a strong JPA between both cities. “Chairman” should be “Chairperson”. Let’s move forward but tackle wording in January. Annual review was mentioned, but that could be in the contract of the Director, not JPA. The goal was supposed to be to have a long-term contract between both cities. This was a quick turnaround to get it to both cities.

McCoy – Let’s adopt changes now, and another to direct Police Commission to go through and clean up the wording. Councilmember Betts has valid point on paragraph 17 when they mention RE. When original was drafted, the offices were rented. Now it is owned by the City. Paragraph 17 has not been changed since the original draft.

Kroells – It has not.

Johnson – We have been in 2-3 different locations. I think these should be two different motions. In good faith, we should make something stronger. Main emphasis was that we are hiring a new PSD, and it gives them some confidence that we will be around for a while and will continue. Now is the time to do it. I don’t want to push something through really fast.

McCoy – This is the first time we are going outside to hire somebody.

Johnson – It’s been an issue just hiring for officers. We should have two separate motions.

Betts – clarify the property.

Kaltsas – Good plan. If second motion directs back to Police Commission to clean up, then reference the offset agreement that is in place on January 14th PC.

Johnson – Did Spencer have any concerns?

Kaltsas – No.

**Motion by McCoy, seconded by Betts to approve red line version as presented specifically section 18. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: Spencer, Grotting. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. Approved 3-0**

**Motion by Johnson, seconded by Betts for Police Commission to review the terms of the agreement and for the Administrators to consider bringing back a draft of those changes that could be considered as an Addendum to the JPA at a future meeting. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: Spencer, Grotting. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. Approved 3-0**

4. Adjourn.

**Motion by McCoy, second by Betts to adjourn the meeting at 1:17pm. Ayes: Johnson, McCoy, and Betts. Nays: None. Absent: Spencer, Grotting. None. Abstain. None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED. 3-0**

Meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.

---

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amber Simon/ Recording Secretary