

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2011 – 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, Councilmembers Betts, Spencer, and Wenck. Wallace arrived at 7:35 p.m.

STAFF: Clerk-Administrator Hirsch, Public Works Director Koch

4. CONSENT AGENDA.

Approve:

- Approval of Council Minutes for July 12, 2011
- Approval of Accounts Payable for August, 2011
- Approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report, ABDO
- Approval of the Equipment Sharing Agreement with the City's of Medina, Corcoran, Greenfield, Rogers, Loretto, Rockford and St. Michael.
- Approval of the West End Farms LLC request for a Large Assembly Permit to host a Polo match and picnic on August 21, 2011.
- Approval of Ordinance 2011-06 Amending Section 2000.03 of the Independence Code relating to various Misdemeanor Violations.

Betts had one correction to the minutes.

**Motion by Betts, seconded by Wenck, to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Betts, Johnson, Spencer, Wenck. Nays: None. Absent: Wallace. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.**

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

Mayor Johnson added Lake Minnetonka Cable Commission (LMCC) to the agenda.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Spencer: Hosted Night to Unite Party, Planning Commission Meeting  
Wenck: Two Lake Minnetonka Cable Commission Meetings – one was a Budget Meeting  
Betts: Police Commission Meeting, Circus, Two Night to Unite Parties, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting in Delano  
Johnson: Workshop on Complete Streets at the Minneapolis Library, Meeting with Betsy Weiland who is the agriculture extension educator on rural issues for Hennepin County, Police Commission Meeting, Circus, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting in Delano, SCS Board and Yearly Social Event at the St. Michael City Hall and Senior Center, Community Action Partnership for Suburban Hennepin County Board Meeting, attended all six Night to Unite events, Meeting with two consultants at Loretto City Hall to discuss Loretto, Hamel and Medina Fire Departments  
Wallace: Meeting with Army Major General back from Germany  
Hirsch: Circus

7. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE FIRST SIX-MONTH 2011 BUDGET.

Johnson stated he appreciated Hirsch’s work to address his concerns about the items that were either over or under for the period. He stated that a workshop will be held on Monday, August 15 at 7:00 a.m.

8. LAKE MINNETONKA CABLE COMMISSION (LMCC)

Johnson stated that he had seen a clip on the local news about this and would like an update from Wenck.

Wenck reported that the commission has been studying fiber connections to premises/homes, which is the same as broadband. A survey had been done and 70% of respondents were in favor if it was equal to or less expensive than the current pricing. The analysis done indicates that it will be quite a bit cheaper with an ability to return income to the cities. A branding group helped them come up with a new name, Tonka Connect. They were also trying to get a firm idea of the cost of the project.

Wenck reported that most recently, three cities indicated they did not want to spend any more money on the project. Johnson asked for clarification. Wenck explained those cities are directing their representatives to vote no on continuing the study. Wenck replied there is some miscommunication where the money is coming from for the study. Wenck explained there are seventeen cities in the commission and they have weighted votes. Independence has two votes, meaning we have two representatives, and some cities have three. The commission prepares a budget, which then goes to the cities to be approved. The majority of the cities have Councils that need to approve the budget. Money for the survey comes from the commission’s budget, not directly from the cities. He stated that they do have a lot of data that has come in so far. He said part of the franchise renewal is to identify community and communication needs. The Executive Committee decided not to budget any more money in the 2012 budget.

Wenck reported Cook County has a grant to do the same type of project and the City of Monticello has already done so. He stated that they need to get the framework and then have a private company to operate it so it is not a government operation. He stated that it looked like there are not many private companies that want to do that type of work though.

Johnson thanked Wenck for his information.

9. DAN KOCH, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – SALT SHED BIDS

Koch reported that he received quotes for the salt shed. He stated the salt shed would be very similar to the picture on display, which is from Silver Creek Township. The only difference is the center wall; there will not be the wood portion on top. He stated he did not see the need for this and it will also enable the wall to move from side to side.

He called four companies for quotes and only received two quotes back. One never responded and the other visited with him but then declined because of their recent workload due to storm damage repairs.

Koch stated that the Building Official has reviewed the plans, but Koch had a question on the vapor barrier.

Wenck asked that a two year warranty be placed on the building.

Wenck asked if this was a budgeted item. Hirsch stated there is money for the building that will come out of the reserve for building or equipment capital. She explained it was money that was transferred out of the general fund for an expenditure like this. It is a budgeted item.

Betts questioned what has happened with the little house on the property. Hirsch replied that she had someone come to look at it. They may purchase it and move it to use a mother-in-law place. They are still thinking about it.

Betts asked if this was Koch's first choice for the location for the salt shed. Koch stated his first choice was the area near the little house's garage, but there was some concern with the well being so close. Koch stated it is probably better where it is outlined in the plan now, because it would be easier to add onto the structure in the future. Betts asked what will happen when the little house is finally gone; what will the area be used for. Hirsch replied it will remain as a planned expansion area for the Public Works Department.

Johnson asked if there were any timelines for the project. Koch replied that both companies were eager to start so work would be done by October. Johnson agreed, but wanted to ensure that if can't be done this year, they get the same price next year.

**Motion made by Betts, seconded by Johnson, to approve the building with the condition of a two year warranty. Ayes: Betts, Johnson, Spencer, Wallace, Wenck. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.**

10. OPEN/MISC.

No items.

11. ADJOURN

**Motion made by Wenck, seconded by Wallace, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Ayes: Betts, Johnson, Spencer, Wallace, Wenck . Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberly A. Olson, Recording Secretary