

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007, 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 Marvin 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, Council Members Fisher, Betts, Strong, Gyllenblad.

STAFF: Clerk Hirsch, Attorney Vose, Planner Goodrum.

VISITORS: (Attached - same list as Board of Review which has recessed for this meeting.)

4. CONSENT AGENDA. APPROVE:

- April 24, 2007 Council Minutes.
- May 2007 Accounts Payable.

Motion by Betts, second by Fisher to approve the Consent Agenda. All present voted aye. MOTION CARRIED.

5. SET AGENDA. (There were no additional items.)

Mayor Johnson stated an announcement would be made.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

Gyllenblad: Many phone calls about property valuations.

Strong: Sensible Land Use.

Betts: Sensible Land Use, RFP meetings and interviews, WECAN Prayer Breakfast.

Fisher: Sensible Lane Use, and worked at clean-up day.

Mayor Johnson: Attended the Plymouth Senior Center Volunteer Appreciation Day for Senior Community Services, WECAN Prayer Breakfast, CASPH Board Meeting, Vinland Center Carol Jackson's retirement party, WECAN Executive Committee meeting, Delano Senior Center program, Orono Healthy Communities Alliance meeting, Mayors Conference in Willmar.

Clerk Hirsch: Met with insurance broker regarding health, dental and disability insurance, met with the selection committee for RFP's, met with Attorney Vose and representatives from Veit Construction regarding outstanding bill; worked at clean-up day.

7. APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 07-0508-01 DENYING A REQUEST BY THE MINNESOTA POLO CLUB LLC, FOR A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE RELATED TO THE CONDITIONAL USE OF A POLO OPERATION.

Attorney Vose noted this was originally on the agenda under the 60-day rule. The applicant has submitted a written request asking for an extension until June 12. Vose has found that this type of request is not subject to the 60-day rule, but Vose and the applicant's attorney have agreed to continue to treat it that way. Council members agreed to set this aside until June 12.

8. APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN LAND USE CONSULTANTS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE.

Clerk Hirsch reported that we received five RFP's. The committee, composed of Planning Commissioner Brad Spencer, Parks Commissioner Carl Phillips, Council Member Lynn Betts and Clerk Hirsch, met last week to select three candidates from the five for purposes of interviewing them. City Planner Tom Goodrum sat in on all the interviews. The Committee conducted interviews Friday morning. After those interviews, the field was narrowed to two. After follow-up interviews with the two remaining applicants, the Committee voted 4 to 1 to recommend Loucks & Associates to Council.

Clerk Hirsch stated that of the five proposals, Loucks was in the mid range for cost. Clerk Hirsch, knowing we have less than a year to complete this plan, felt that Loucks' experience with our city would be much to our advantage. The Committee talked at length about the cost of the project. Clerk Hirsch felt that on one project recently completed, the consultant did not perform as expected, and some work was not completed in a timely manner. City Staff and the city planner were called on to help with work that should have been completed by the consultant. Clerk Hirsch stated that in all the years she worked with Loucks & Associates things were done in a timely manner and work was most satisfactory.

Betts stated that it was a difficult decision, but felt satisfied and confident that the Committee made the right decision. Strong asked about Schoell Madsen's proposal. Tom Goodrum stated that they felt they would best serve the city as a liaison between the consultant and the city on this project.

Tom Loucks and David Hagen from Loucks & Associates were present to answer questions. Mayor Johnson stated that he was satisfied with the work the committee had done, and would look forward to working with Loucks & Associates on the comp plan. Gyllenblad expressed his disappointment at not being notified when the interviews would take place, as he wanted to sit in on them as an observer. Clerk Hirsch apologized for not notifying him as she did not understand that she was to do that.

Motion by Betts, second by Fisher to approve Loucks and Associates as the consultant for updating the comp plan. Voting aye: Mayor Johnson, Council Members Fisher, Betts, Strong. Voting nay: Gyllenblad Motion carried.

9. OPEN/MISCELLANEOUS.

**HARLAN STRONG RESIGNATION.**

Harlan Strong announced that he is resigning effective June 14, as he has sold his house and will be moving to Plymouth. Mayor Johnson stated that he would like to put a notice in the paper that Harlan's position is open for the remainder of this year. The Council will appoint someone to fill the position, and it may be easier knowing who would be interested in serving. Harlan's position will be up for election this fall.

SPECIAL MEETING TO APPOINT INTERIM COUNCIL MEMBER.

Motion by Gyllenblad, second by Betts, to advertise to fill Strong's position with applications to be received until noon on Friday, June 1; depending on the number of applicants, to hold a special meeting in June to determine a process and, if necessary, interview applicants. All present voted aye. MOTION CARRIED.

10. ADJOURN.

Motion by Fisher, second by Betts to adjourn. All present voted aye. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mollie Little, Recording Secretary