

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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 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, Commissioners Fisher, Betts, Wenck, Gyllenblad.

STAFF: Clerk-Administrator Hirsch, Attorney Vose, Planner Lorsung.

VISITORS: Harry Pool, LaVerne Vassar, LuAnn Brenno, Jim Coleman, Mike LePage, Ray McCoy

4. CONSENT AGENDA.

- Approval of September 11, 2007 Council Minutes.
- Approval of Letter to be sent to Lake Haughey and Fogelman Road residents regarding road improvements.
- Approval of Mayor Johnson's request to attend the National League of Cities Convention as a direct member City Delegate and Representative of the League of Minnesota Cities in New Orleans, from November 14 to the 17, 2007

Councilmember Gyllenblad asked for the Mayor's request to be pulled for further discussion.

Motion by Fisher, second by Wenck to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda; all ayes, motion declared carried.

Motion by Gyllenblad, second by Wenck to have the Mayor provide more expense information about the proposed trip at the next meeting; all ayes, motion declared carried.

5. SET AGENDA - ANYONE NOT ON THE AGENDA MAY BE PLACED UNDER OPEN/MISC.

Harry Pool asked the Council to explain why at the Comp Plan Public Meeting; the City shows such a high tax rate?

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF.

Gyllenblad: Comp Plan Public Meeting

Wenck: Comp Plan Public Meeting

Betts: Comp Plan Public Meeting, Chamber of Commerce, Hennepin County Active Living Meeting

Johnson: Senior Community Services Executive Meeting, Northwest League of Municipalities, Chamber of Commerce, Schoell & Madson – Lindgren Lane, Orono Healthy Communities, LMC Fiscals Future Committee, Community Action Partners Suburban Hennepin County Finance Committee, Transportation Committee – AMM, League of Minnesota Cities Board meeting, Collaborative Meeting (Alliance), City of Medina Veterans Memorial Dedication, Hennepin County Active Living Committee Meeting, Metro Small Cities Staff Meeting, Met with residents regarding the Northern Natural Gas Line on County Line Road and Maple Plain and MnDot regarding Highway 12 and the Railroad.

7. RECOGNITION AWARDS - Past Parks Commissioners Carl Philips, Dorothy Rust and Mike LePage; and past Planning Commissioner Norm Wenck.

Mayor Johnson presented the Recognition Awards to Norm Wenck for his years of service on the Planning Commission and Mike LePage for his time on the Park Commission and his work on the Heritage Fest ; the others were not present and will be sent to them.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR RAY MCCOY - AUGUST 2007 ACTIVITY REPORT.

Chief McCoy reviewed the August activity report for council members.

9. REVIEW AND APPROVE A CODE ENFORCEMENT POLICY - PLANNER ROSE LORSUNG.

City Planner Lorsung reviewed the current process for code enforcement and the proposed changes to that procedure. She had some additional suggestions, as well as that of having one of their (Schoell & Madson) lesser paid employees do some of the inspections. This would help keep the cost down; as we have approximately 100 CUP's to visit. Wenck and Gyllenblad suggested that the City's Building Inspector do all of them, as they believe that he has the time to do this with the number of building permits that the City is down.

Admin Hirsch stated that he could possibly do some of them, but not all. He isn't trained in planning and zoning and that some will need to be inspected by the Planner. Also, that just because there haven't been that many new home permits pulled in the last year, doesn't mean that there aren't the other types of inspections to do. The Building Inspector is responsible for other inspections such as additions, decks, reroofs, sewers, etc. As well as working with Delano and our Public Works department and following up with Code Enforcement issues.

Council recommended that Staff come back to the Council with the CUP's broken up into categories, of those we think can be done by the Building Inspector or the other employee from Schoell & Madson and Rose, the City Planner.

10. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2007-03, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE TO ADDRESS INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS (ISTS) AND TO CLARIFY OTHER LANGUAGE AS NEEDED.

Attorney Vose suggested that this removed from the agenda, so he can make sure that all of the Statues mentioned were up to date and that he understood them before the Council acted on them.

11. OPEN/MISCELLANEOUS.

Harry Pool asked the Council to explain why at the last Comp Plan Public Meeting one of the PowerPoint slides showed Independence with a 41.9% Tax Base. Many other Cites were lower, other than Maple Plain, which was higher than us. The Mayor suggested that instead of the Council trying to guess at what the reason was, that we have Phil Jenson from the Hennepin County Assessors Office come to a meeting and explain it to us.

It was the consensus of the Council to follow up with Hennepin County.

12. ADJOURN.

Motion by Betts, second by Gyllenblad to adjourn the Council meeting at 8:25 p.m, all ayes; motion declared carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Toni Hirsch
City Administrator