

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009 – 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, Council Members Betts, Gyllenblad and Wenck.

ABSENT: Council Member Wallace.

STAFF: Administrator-Clerk Hirsch, Attorney Vose.

VISITORS: LuAnn Brenno, Dan Lundgren, Jeff Johnson, Sarah Wyatt.

4. CONSENT AGENDA.

Approve:

- Council Minutes – May 26, 2009.
- Board of Review Minutes – May 26, 2009.
- Accounts Payable for June 2009.
- Twin Cities Polo Club to hold a 20th anniversary appreciation party on Saturday, July 31, 2009 before the Polo Classic on that following Sunday.

Gyllenblad had a question about the value listed for the Kask property in the Board of Review minutes.

Hirsch stated she would discuss the issue with the Assessor.

**Motion by Betts, second by Gyllenblad, to approve the consent agenda. All present voted aye.
MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.**

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

Brenno asked to be added to the agenda.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Gyllenblad: Nothing to report.

Wenck: Lake Minnetonka Communication Commission meeting.

Betts: Sensible Land Use Committee conference.

Mayor: Orono scholarship presentation, Sensible Land Use Committee conference, Senior Community Services board meeting, Land Use Advisory Committee meeting, Community

Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin board meeting, Appreciation event for WeCan, WeCan annual meeting and board meeting, Orono High School graduation ceremony, County Home School graduation, interviewed by David Gillette from Mediacom. Received letters from the Railroad Company regarding increased train speed. Received letter from Met Council regarding population counts. Reported information to the Council regarding open space study in Hennepin County.

Hirsch: Nothing to report.

7. DAN LUNDGREN, CENTER POINTE ENERGY – PRESENTATION OF A CENTER POINTE ENERGY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANT FOR THE USE OF PURCHASING 2 HEART SAFE DEFIBRILLATORS FOR THE CITY.

Lundgren stated Center Pointe Energy offers grants to communities to support local fire and police departments. He presented the City with \$1,450 for the purchase of Heart Start defibrillators for the Community Center and and Public Works facility.

Brenno stated the survival rates with the use of defibrillators are much higher than without defibrillators.

8. JEFF JOHNSON, HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the Council for allowing him to be on the agenda. He stated he is the new County Commissioner for the Independence area. Commissioner Johnson invited the residents and Council to let his office know if they have any issues or concerns that he can help with. Commissioner Johnson stated the County is currently working on its budget for 2010. He added the County could be facing a decrease in revenues from 2009, but he believes the County had plenty of money and needs to do a better job prioritizing how it spends it. Commissioner Johnson stated he believes the core services of the County are transportation, public safety and providing a safety net the most vulnerable people in society.

Mayor Johnson asked if Hennepin County Medical Center's budget is part of the County's budget.

Commissioner Johnson responded that the HCMC budget is separate from the County's budget. He explained that HCMC was formerly run by the County Board, but is now run by a separate entity. He stated the County contributed about \$36 million to HCMC last year because of budget issues. Commissioner Johnson stated that next year, the County would probably contribute \$50 to \$55 million.

Mayor Johnson asked if there had been a federal reduction in the amount of money available for healthcare.

Commissioner Johnson responded that there had been a state reduction in healthcare funding. He added the federal funding has remained stable and could grow.

Mayor Johnson stated he thought Commissioner Johnson should be concerned with leafy spurge along the highways, especially in the more urban areas and the northern part of the County. He added the leafy spurge could destroy the rest of the vegetation in the area.

Commissioner Johnson responded he would check on that issue.

Mayor Johnson asked how quickly Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) would be distributed.

Commissioner Johnson responded he the County Board approved some CDBG funds at its last meeting, but was unaware of any of any issues with payments.

Mayor Johnson explained that the funds had already been budgeted, but organizations such as WeCan still hadn't received the funds.

Commissioner Johnson stated he would look into the issue.

Mayor Johnson stated he attended the graduation ceremony at the County Home School and invited Commissioner Johnson to have a discussion with him regarding the facility.

Commissioner Johnson responded he would be interested in having a discussion with Mayor Johnson.

Wenck asked what the change in the 2010 budget would be.

Commissioner Johnson responded that it could be a 1 to 1 ½ percent decrease, depending on what Gov. Pawlenty decides to do.

Mayor Johnson asked how the property valuations have changes throughout Hennepin County.

Commissioner Johnson responded that the overall valuation last year stayed the same, but he's not sure what will happen next year.

Mayor Johnson noted that the current County Assessor is retiring soon.

9. SARAH WYATT, THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1.

Wyatt discussed handouts she gave to the Council regarding activities Three Rivers is doing in the Independence area. Wyatt discussed the new Dakota Trail, which runs from St. Bonifacious to Wayzata. She added the Lake Independence Regional Trail is partially open next the County Road 19, connecting Baker Park Reserve and Crow-Hassan Park Reserve.

Johnson asked if people are using the Lake Independence Regional Trail.

Wyatt responded that she has seen people using the trail. Wyatt discussed the camper cabins available at Baker Park Reserve. She added that because of the new Three Rivers Park District Trails, many people are now biking to work. Wyatt stated all of the paved trails in Lake Rebecca Park Reserve were reconstructed last year and a new play area is currently being built.

Johnson asked if the new trails are wider.

Wyatt responded that the trails are 10 feet wide, which is a MnDOT standard. She stated that Lake Rebecca Park Reserve is now open for winter use. Wyatt asked the Council if it had any interest in working with Three Rivers on projects in the area. She mentioned some projects that the two entities had worked on together in the past.

Johnson noted that Independence is part of Active Living Hennepin Communities, which also has a member from Three Rivers. He added that in the master plan for upgrading the County roads in Independence, there are plans for expanding shoulders of roads for bikers and walkers.

Wyatt stated Three Rivers is working to increase the number of trails throughout its service area.

Johnson stated County Road 11 is probably one of the biggest safety concerns for bikers within the City, but it's not on the County's plan for upgrading for several years.

Wyatt suggested a contact person from Three Rivers that the City could work with in order to develop trail projects. Wyatt stated Three Rivers is working to create more horse trailer parking in Baker Park.

Johnson noted the Luce Line is still busy, even with the opening of the Dakota Trail.

Wyatt thanked the Council for meeting her and encouraged the Council to contact her with comments and concerns.

10. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PIONEER-SARAH CREEK WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION BUDGET FOR 2010.

Johnson stated for 2010, Independence will pay \$156 less than 2009 toward the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Water Management Commission. He noted the Commission would be taking some money out of reserves for 2010.

Wenck stated he would like the Commission to reduce its 2010 budget, which it didn't do last year. He added he wants the City to inform the Commission in writing that it is requesting a 10 percent reduction.

Motion by Wenck, second by Gyllenblad, to advise the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Water Management Commission in writing to reduce its 2010 budget by 10 percent. All present voted aye. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Johnson stated that the Council cannot require the Commission to reduce its budget, but it can advise the Commission.

11. DISCUSSION OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUEST FROM DELANO FOR THE DELANO SENIOR CENTER.

Hirsh stated she received a bill from the City of Delano for services provided to Independence residents by the Delano Senior Center. She stated that there is not currently a contract with the City of Delano for these services and suggested creating a contract or joint powers agreement.

Johnson stated the Delano Senior Center chose to reorganize. He noted that many Independence residents use Delano Senior Center, but there isn't a formal contract in place for services. Johnson stated the City had budgeted \$1,500 for the Delano Senior Center. He requested Hirsch discuss the issue with Delano.

Wenck stated he wants the City to pay what it has budgeted and not the additional amount requested by Delano. He asked why the food wasn't included in the Senior Center budget.

Johnson explained the people who eat at the Center have to pay for the food and some of it may be donated.

Hirsch asked why the City is being asked to pay for Independence residents who eat at the Senior Center when they already have to pay to dine there.

Betts explained that the amount the residents pay for meals probably doesn't cover the entire cost.

Johnson stated the City has worked a lot in the past with the Senior Center to obtain funds for its building using CDBG funds.

Vose stated he is concerned that if there isn't a contract or understanding, then the payment is just a gift, which the City is not legally allowed to do. He noted that if the payment is an obligation, then the City should have a written understanding, either formal or informal, that would give the City authority to pay the Senior Center.

Johnson stated he does not want to do anything that would disenfranchise the City's senior citizens.

12. OPEN/MISC.

Brenno

Brenno, resident, stated the no parking signs on Turner Road resulted in people coming for the Ultimate Frisbee competition parking further west on Turner Road where there aren't any no parking signs. She stated she felt the Frisbee competitions are an inappropriate use for the site and are very noisy the entire day.

Hirsch and Johnson discussed where the no parking signs are located.

Hirsch stated she also received a complaint from a resident in the Polo Club neighborhood regarding noise and parking issues.

Betts asked if the participants could use Pioneer Creek Park.

Johnson and Hirsch responded that there wouldn't be enough parking.

Brenno stated she thinks the City should put restrictions on the large assembly permits it issues to these groups, if it allows these competitions to continue.

Johnson directed Hirsch to discuss the issue with the West Hennepin Public Safety Director.

11. ADJOURN.

Motion by Wenck, second by Gyllenblad, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 8:30 p.m. All present voted aye. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Scipioni, Recording Secretary