

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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, Wallace (left at 8:30) and Wenck.

STAFF: Clerk-Administrator Hirsch, Planner Kaltsas, West Hennepin Public Safety Director McCoy, Recording Secretary Scipioni.

VISITORS: Chris Cady, Mike Zeglin, Ed & Kathie Pluth, Brad Spencer, LuAnn Brenno, Lynda Franklin, Sam Vandeputte, Bob & Marilyn Hamilton, Hennepin County Sheriff Rick Stanek, Hennepin County Inspector Storms.

4. CONSENT AGENDA.

Approve:

- Council Minutes – October 27, 2009.
- Canvas Board Minutes – November 4, 2009.
- Accounts Payable and financials for November 2009.
- 3rd Quarter report.
- Catherine Sallas request to put her acreage into the Ag Preserve Program (PID No. 20-118-24-34-0001) 8420 Pioneer Creek Road.
- Send letter of support for the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Wide Surface Water Assessment Grant.
- Certification of Delinquent Utilities, Resolution No. 09-1117-01.

Motion by Wenck, second by Gyllenblad, to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Betts, Gyllenblad, Johnson, Wallace and Wenck. Nays: none. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

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

Nothing was added to the agenda.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Gyllenblad: Canvassing Board meeting, Police Commission meeting.

Wenck: Three Lake Minnetonka Communication Commission meetings.

Wallace: Nothing to report.

Betts: Sensible Land Use meeting, Canvassing Board meeting, Police Commission meeting.
Mayor: Sensible Land Use meeting, meeting with Hirsch and Hennepin County Assessor, Greater Lakes Food Bank meeting, Canvassing Board meeting, meeting with Hirsch and Catherine Sallas, Orono School Board meeting, National League of Cities' Congress of Cities and Exposition, National League of Cities Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Committee meeting, Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin Finance Committee meeting, Police Commission meeting.
Hirsch: Meeting with Johnson and Hennepin County Assessor, Meeting with Johnson and Catherine Sallas, Meeting with Met Council.
Kaltsas: Met with Met Council to discuss questions about the 2030 Comp Plan update. He stated he plans to resubmit the Comp Plan to the Met Council before Thanksgiving. The Met Council wanted further clarification of the urban commercial and urban residential districts.

7. HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF RICK STANEK – OVERVIEW OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

Stanek gave the Council an overview of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. He noted the office has eight different lines of business that provide services in a varying degree to all of the Hennepin County municipalities: adult detention, court services, investigations, forensic services, enforcement services, information technology services and civil division. He stated one of his areas of focus has been reducing the amount of violent crime in Hennepin County and noted that it had decreased since 2007. Stanek discussed the importance of information-sharing between police departments and noted that Hennepin County helps to facilitate information-sharing. Stanek commended West Hennepin Public Safety on the work it does in the Independence community.

Storms discussed the various departments within the Enforcement Services Division: patrol unit, SWAT, partnerships, K9 units, dignitary protection details, water patrol, transport unit, volunteer units and an explorer post based out of Brooklyn Park.

Stanek stated he would be presenting a 2010 budget to the County Board that is 96 percent of the 2009 budget. He asked the Council for questions.

Betts asked if the County Workhouse in Plymouth would be closing.

Stanek responded that the workhouse was not in his division, so he didn't know if it was closing.

Johnson asked if the Sheriff's Office still conducted a citizen's academy.

Stanek responded that his office conducts two academies per year.

Johnson asked if there was just one dispatching center in Hennepin County.

Stanek responded that Hennepin County has 10 dispatching centers: Minneapolis, Hennepin County and eight other cities. He noted the Council would soon be building a new dispatch center in Plymouth.

Johnson asked if the County was still working on using the 800 mega hertz channel for data.

Stanek responded the County is working with the Federal government to allow its microwave system to have faster speeds.

Johnson asked if the Hennepin County Jail is currently at capacity.

Stanek responded that the jail is typically full everyday and is sometimes over capacity. He stated his overtime budget is typically between \$1.6 and \$1.8 million.

Johnson asked where the mounted patrol is housed.

Stanek responded that it is housed at the Shriner's barn.

Johnson thanked Stanek for Hennepin County's assistance during the two vehicle fatalities in Independence during the summer.

Stanek said the response to the accident was a good example of the importance of interagency collaboration and the 800 mega hertz channel.

Johnson asked how individuals could become involved with the County's explorer program.

Stanek responded that information about the program is available online.

8. DIRECTOR RAY MCCOY – WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY.

McCoy stated WHPS had received 6,018 calls, 3,136 for Independence, as of Oct. 31. He stated there had been several burglaries in Maple Plain and a suspect had been apprehended. WHPS also dealt with complaints of four-wheelers being used in Tamarac Park and spoke to a 17-year-old about the issue. Neighbor disputes have also kept WHPS, but McCoy stated they should be resolved soon. McCoy stated an officer recently responded to a call of a dog in a tree. McCoy also discussed a DUI recent arrest of a 29-year-old female who had two children in the backseat.

McCoy stated the Police Commission approved changes to the administrative citation ordinances that would bring it into compliance with new State laws. He noted WHPS had recently received a grant for the purchase of ballistic vests. The Police Commission also approved changes to WHPS policies. McCoy stated WHPS has currently spent 75 percent of its budget through 83 percent of the year, but would still be buying a new squad car and have other year-end expenses. He stated that he expected WHPS to end the year on budget.

McCoy discussed the recent Highway 12 detour. He stated most of the preplanning was effective, but some small changes to the timing of stoplights and traffic control told were made. McCoy stated he is working with MnDOT to have a stoplight put in at Highway 12 and County Road 90 during the detour next summer.

Johnson asked if the issue with the traffic light at County Roads 6 and 90 would be resolved and if the pot holes under the bridge on Highway 12 would be repaired.

McCoy responded that he is working with MnDOT to resolve those issues.

9. SAM VANDEPUTTE, 1980 COUNTY ROAD 90 (PID NO. 23-118-24-32-0001) – APPROVAL OF AN INTERIM USE PERMIT TO PERMIT OUTDOOR STORAGE OF LANDSCAPE MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT RELATING TO THE OWNER’S LANDSCAPE BUSINESS ON A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WITHOUT A PRIMARY STRUCUTRE. RESOLUTION NO. 09-1117-02.

Kaltsas the applicant is seeking an Interim Use Permit to allow outdoor storage of landscape materials and equipment relating to his landscape business on the subject property. In addition to the subject site, the applicant owns the adjacent building at 1960 County Road 90. The applicant currently operates his landscape company on a site outside of the City. One of the tenants in the building to the south of this property, 1960 County Road 90, recently moved out leaving a vacancy. The applicant would like to move into the vacant unit and operate his landscape business. There is some available outdoor storage on the 1960 site; however, the applicant is seeking additional outdoor storage on the subject property. Outdoor storage would consist of mulch, rock, trees, shrubs and equipment associated with the landscape business. Directly adjacent to this property is an existing commercial building on the south and a residential building on the north with a commercial CUP.

Johnson asked if the applicant needed to put a fence on the east side of the property.

Kaltsas responded that the applicant wanted to tie in the east fence with the existing fence on the 1960 site.

Betts asked if the owner to the north of the subject site had been noticed. She stated the owner was concerned about an increase of water on his property.

Kaltsas responded that the City had not done a full review of the applicant’s grading permit, yet, but it appears the proposed grading would help alleviate some drainage issues on the property to the north.

Vandeputte explained that the 1960 site was never properly graded when it was subdivided. If the IUP is approved, he would properly grade the site and add drainage.

Motion by Wenck, second by Betts, to approve Resolution No. 09-1117-02. Ayes: Betts, Gyllenblad, Johnson and Wenck. Nays: none. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

10. CHRISTINA SCIPIONI – ACTIVE LIVING HENNEPIN COMMUNITIES PRESENTATION.

Scipioni gave a presentation on Active Living Hennepin Communities, a partnership in which she and Johnson participate. She explained that active living is a way of life that incorporates physical activity into people’s daily routines. Active Living Hennepin Communities began as a broad-based partnership in 2006 and is funded through grants from Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Minnesota Department of Health. Independence receives \$5,000 per year for participating in the partnership. Scipioni discussed the challenges that pedestrians and bicyclists face: lack of sidewalks or narrow shoulders, difficult street crossings and bridges and overpasses. Site designs that require residents to use busy connector streets to access other neighborhoods also pose a challenge to active living. To encourage active living, cities can ask developers to incorporate elements of active living into site design, design commercial and multi-family residential buildings to a human scale, and create connections between new developments and existing neighborhoods.

Johnson discussed the changes Hennepin County made to County Road 6 that made it possible for people to be able to bike and walk along that road.

11. SET BUDGET WORKSHOP BEFORE THE TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING.

The Mayor and Council tentatively chose 6:30 a.m. to Wednesday, Dec. 2 to hold a budget workshop.

12. OPEN/MISC.

Nothing was added to the agenda.

13. ADJOURN.

Motion by Wenck, second by Betts, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 9:00 p.m. Ayes: Betts, Gyllenblad, Johnson and Wenck. Nays: none. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Scipioni, Recording Secretary