

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 22 - 8:30 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 8:30 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, Wenck, Wallace, Gyllenblad.

STAFF: Attorney Vose and Tom Goodrum, Planner - MRFA.

ABSENT: City Administrator Toni Hirsch

VISITORS: Phillip Jensen, Carl and Lisa Phillips, Leo Poole

4. CONSENT AGENDA.

Approve:

- April 22, 2008, Council Minutes.
- Approval of the month end report for March, 2008.
- Approval of Resolution No. 08-0422-01 Affirming Support for Active Living Hennepin County.

Councilmember Wenck asked for the Resolution to be pulled for further discussion.

Motion by Wenck, second by Gyllenblad to approve the first two items of the consent agenda, noting the typing change on page two of the minutes. All present voted aye, motion declared carried.

Councilmember Wenck had concerns about the transportation portion of the resolution in regards to any obligations to the City and transit issues. These transit issues are not the same for us in this area as they are for the inner City areas. Mayor Johnson stated that this doesn't obligate us to anything, it's a generic resolution and that he already removed items that wouldn't pertain to our community as a rural community.

Motion by Wenck, second by Johnson to approve Resolution No. 08-0422-01 Affirming Support for Active Living Hennepin County. All present voted aye, motion declared carried.

5. SET AGENDA.

No Additions to the agenda.

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

Gyllenblad: Comp Plan meeting in April and Joint Park Commission with Maple Plain and Independence Plain.

Wenck: Comp Plan meeting in April.
Wallace: Nothing to report.
Betts: Comp Plan meeting in April, received a call regarding the comp plan from a citizen and will be getting back to that resident, call regarding possible damage to Tamarack Park from 4-wheelers.
Mayor: Comp Plan meeting in April, attended Senator Lemars fathers funeral, a meeting of the Big-3, Northwest League of Municipalities, Attended the "State of the County" at the Best Buy building, Community Action Partnership Suburban Hennepin County Training session, Fundraiser at the Orono Discovery Center with Vintage Singer, Orono Healthy Communities and the Alliance Communities Collaborative about the appropriations from the State, WeCan Board meeting, Orono School Board meeting, Governance Committee meeting for the League of Minnesota Cities and the League of Minnesota Cities Board meeting, Land Use Advisory Committee meeting for the Met Council, AMM Annual meeting and the West Hennepin Public Safety Police Academy graduation ceremony, Highway 55 Coalition meeting, Greater Lakes Food Bank meeting and the Senior Community Executive Service meeting.

7. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY - RAY MCCOY: MARCH ACTIVITY REPORT.

Postponed until the May 27th meeting.

8. PHIL JENSEN, HENNEPIN COUNTY ASSESSOR – PRE-BOARD OF REVIEW DISCUSSION.

Phil Jensen was present to review the process of order for the actual Board of Review and to touch on some highlights from the Assessment and Board Blue Book, also stated he has received to date, approximately 55 phone calls. He expects again this many more phone calls before the actual Board of Review on May 13. Jensen is personally going out to these residents properties, re-measuring and reviewing the properties with the owners.

Jensen stated that all reviews are based on sales between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007 for the 2008 assessment. The typical number of sales to work within the City is 40 to 50 sales, the City had more than that, with more sales in the million dollar range than ever before.

Jensen reported that off lake property values had been dropped, on lake values on Lake Independence didn't move one way or the other. Lake Sarah however; some went up and some went down, in one area a bit higher than the rest and he's been talking to every one of them. Farm land was basically left alone, the values of farmland (Green Acres and Ag Preserve) went up based on Counties from the Southwest part of the State, such as Pipestone and Laverne areas for comparables by State law.

It was reported the overall value decrease for all property types in the city of Independence is; -3.4%.

Mayor Johnson asked Jensen how properties were on the market right now, he wasn't sure and will find that out for the next meeting.

There were other questions regarding agricultural land values, commercial properties and how they affect their surrounding properties

9. LISA PHILLIPS, PARK COMMISSION – FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT A COMMUNITY GARDE N AND MUSIC IN THE PARK EVENT.

Postponed to a later date.

10. TOM GOODRUM – MFRA, MEDINA COMP PLAN REVIEW.

Tom Goodrum was in attendance in place of Rose Lorsung. He summarized the Medina Comp Plan and any items of interest that the Council and residents may need to respond to. Some of those concerns are near the developments along the North Townline Road area. The City and MFRA Staff have received some letters regarding the extreme development proposals in that area with regard to safety of the railroad tracks, the structure of the road itself. And, also concerns about water and sewer.

Goodrum explained the timing of that proposed use and that it would not take place until 2030, this is a vision, guide plan for now and Medina doesn't expect it to be completed any time before 2030.

Other than that, there is going to be a meeting later this month to hear more about the Highway 55 Corridor and its proposed development plans. Councilmember Betts questioned how our City residents would be notified if Medina were to go through a Comp Plan Amendment, Goodrum stated that the City would be notified and that our Staff would have to send out those notices to our City's affected residents.

Councilmember Wenck suggested that the 80 acres designated to be commercial/multi-family development be changed to the same as the property proposal to the south. Once a Comp Plan is in place, it is hard to get it changed. Councilmember Wallace understood this portion to be placed there because Medina needed to show more commercial development in their City and that's the only other place they could find.

Mayor Johnson would like for the Council to see the letters that were received in regards to this matter and would also like a chance to review the Comp Plan. Councilmember Wenck made note that the Comp Plan is on the Medina website.

Staff will get this information for Council and will put this back on a future agenda.

11. DISCUSSION AND THOUGHTS OF A COMMUNITY SURVEY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNTIES (EXAMPLE FROM MAPLE PLAIN)

Maple Plain is going to send a Community survey out to its residents for direction on transportation issues and was wondering if our City was interested in doing the same.

It was the consensus of the Council to discuss this at the next Council meeting when the Administrator is present.

12. OPEN/MISCELLANEOUS.

No additional items were added.

13. ADJOURN.

Motion by Betts, second by Wallace to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:30 p.m. All present voted aye, motion declared carried.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Toni Hirsch", is written above a horizontal line.

Respectively submitted by Toni Hirsch,
City Administrator