

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012 – 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, Councilors Betts, Fisher, and Spencer
ABSENT: Councilor Wenck
STAFF: Clerk-Administrator Hirsch
VISITORS: Craig Poppenhagen, Heidi Tatro

4. CONSENT AGENDA.

Approve:

- Approval of City Council minutes from April 10, 2012
- Approval of Council Board of Review Minutes for April 10, 2012

Betts had minor changes to the Board of Review Minutes.

Motion by Betts, seconded by Fisher, to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: Wenck. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

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

There were no items added.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Step To It Challenge Walk with the Mayor

Fisher attended the following meetings:

- Step To It Challenge Walk with the Mayor

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Pre-Audit meeting with auditors and staff
- Step To It Challenge Walk with the Mayor

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Northwest League Meeting – MnDot showed maps of potential projects
- Orono Healthy Youth
- Met with John Sipe
- Highway 55 Corridor Coalition Executive and Board Meeting - They have recommended keeping the organization in tact because if funding does become available then all members will still be in place. They will meet on a quarterly basis or perhaps three times a year. Funds that were not spent will go to a project in Wright County near the Target store and also to a project in Hennepin County near County Rd 116. This will mean that all funds will be expended.
- Community Action Partnership for Suburban Hennepin County Finance Committee Meeting
- Represented Senior Community Services Board at the Gillespie Center for their luncheon and also the Delano Senior Center
- Pre-Audit Meeting with auditors and staff
- Westonka Community Action Agency Annual Prayer Breakfast at St. John's in Mound
- Meeting with new owners of Windsong Golf Course - They had some new ideas and would be thinking about doing an open house.
- Love, Inc. Heartland of Delano Annual Fundraiser Dinner in Waverly
- Senior Community Services Program Review Committee
- Step To It Challenge Walk with the Mayor – He stated he was very impressed with the park improvement.

Hirsch attended the following meetings:

- Pre-Audit meeting with auditors and Council
- Step To It Challenge Walk with the Mayor

7. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY – RAY MCCOY, MARCH ACTIVITY REPORT

Johnson reported that McCoy was at training and not able to attend the meeting so they would hear the report at a future meeting.

8. CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN – CRAIG POPPENHAGEN AND HEIDI TATRO, PRESENTATION OF AUDIT YEAR 2011

Johnson commended finance staff for the job they did on the audit.

Poppenhagen reported expenses have leveled off. He stated the city is in a healthy financial position.

Tatro reported there was an increase in building permit fees due to eight new houses that were built in 2011 rather than 1 in 2010. She stated that many cities are not seeing this because of the economy.

The interest on bonds has decreased because interest rates are falling.

Johnson would like to see how much back taxes are paid. Hirsch replied that it is received twice a year from Hennepin County.

Tatro reported the city received 97% of what it levied.

Poppenhagen reported the general fund has been operating evenly and has been breaking even the last two years. He stated that expenses should be 50% ratio of the general fund because essentially the city must cover expenses for the first half of the year before receiving tax money from Hennepin County.

Poppenhagen reported the sewer fund is operating at a loss, but it is due to depreciation. Service fees are not covering the cost of the sewer. The equity in the sewer fund is tied up in assessment and pipe in the ground.

Tatro reported the audit is to provide a reasonable reassurance but they cannot account for every transaction. Therefore, it is not a 100% guarantee.

Betts commented that the financial report is very easy to read and nicely done. Johnson thanked the auditors for their work.

9. CANCEL THE TUESDAY, MAY 8TH COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO A LACK OF AGENDA ITEMS

Johnson reported there was a lack of items for the first meeting of the month. Hirsch had recommended a morning meeting to approve the accounts payable. Johnson felt they should push the meeting back one week later so they can approve those payables and also act on the Planning Commission items from the commission's meeting on the 14th.

Motion by Betts, seconded by Fisher, to cancel the May 8 Council meeting and reschedule the May 22 meeting to May 15. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: Wenck. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

10. MISC/OPEN

There were no items.

11. ADJOURN

Motion made by Spencer, seconded by Fisher, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Fisher, and Spencer. Nays: None. Absent: Wenck. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Olson, Recording Secretary