

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014 – 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 7:40 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Councilors Betts, Spencer, Wenck, and Fisher
ABSENT: City Planner Kaltsas
STAFF: City Administrator Hirsch and City Attorney Voss
VISITORS: None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. All items listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Council and will be acted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- Approval of City Council minutes from February 11, 2014
- Approval for the Mayor to attend the National League of Cities Congressional Conference in Washington D.C., March 8 – 11.

Motion by Betts, second by Wenck to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Spencer, Wenck, and Fisher. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

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

Johnson wanted to add discussion points regarding the Three River's Park Trail Meeting.

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

Spencer attended the following meetings:

- Vinland Center – Winter Walk-about
- Winter Fest on Lake Sarah
- Meeting with Public Works Director, Ende.
- Three River’s Park Trail Meeting

Wenck attended the following meetings:

- LMCC Meeting – Renewal Discussions

Fisher attended the following meetings:

- Three River’s Park Trail Meeting

Betts attended the following meetings:

- Three River’s Park Trail Meeting

Johnson attended the following meetings:

- Three River’s Park Trail Meeting
- Northwest League of Minnesota Cities Meeting
- Small Cities Steering Committee Conference Call
- Community Action Partnership Suburban Hennepin County Finance Committee Meeting
- Vinland Center – Winter Walk-about

Hirsch attended the following meetings:

- Three River’s Park Trail Meeting
- Audit Preparation
- Hennepin County Recycling meeting regarding Organics Recycling requirements

Johnson and Spencer stated how they were impressed with the City’s Public Works Department roadwork.

7. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY, RAY MCCOY-ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2014

McCoy gave an overview of the January activity report. He stated that calls are down compared to last year, mostly due to decreased traffic and weather. Overall for both Cities incidents were down by 178. The officers have been busy assisting stranded motorist and minor auto accidents due to the weather.

McCoy also commended on the Public Works Director, Larry Ende, for his continued help; which includes using the shop to park squad cars and for using the new radio systems. He also discussed an incident in which the Public Works Department helped remove a school bus that was stuck on the railroad tracks and again on another road. WHPS followed that bus on its route and made sure all the children got home safely. Johnson asked about more details and McCoy further explained the scenario.

McCoy stated WHPS audit has been completed, and the goal is to present it at the March 18th Police Commission meeting.

McCoy stated WHPS has narrowed their search for a new officer down to two candidates. He stated the Chief's interview with the candidates was today. Psychological testing will be done and the information will be presented at the March 18th Police Commission Meeting.

8. MISC. /OPEN.

Johnson discussed the proposed trail information from the earlier meeting. He stated he can support Maple Plain City Council's decision; however, should the trail running though the City as proposed and issues arise, they will have to deal with more of the consequences. Johnson stated should the resolution be created, and Independence and Maple Plain can approve that resolution. He stated the City of Independence preferred the option to run the trail down Town Line Road due to safety concerns. Spencer inquired if residents along County Road 19 were aware of this option or present at the last trail proposal open house. Hirsch stated there were a few residents that attended concerned about the closeness to the road, but she did not attend the entire meeting. Johnson stated it has not yet been confirmed which side of the road will have the trail and the easement locations could be considered in this decision.

9. ADJOURN

**Motion by Spencer, second by Wenck to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:57 p.m.
Ayes: Johnson, Betts, Spencer, Wenck, and Fisher. Nays: None. Absent: None. MOTION
DECLARED CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene Nelson, Recording Secretary