

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION OF THE  
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016 –7:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a work session of the Independence City Council was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 7:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Postponed until regular meeting.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Johnson, Councilors Spencer, Betts, and McCoy

ABSENT: Grotting

STAFF: Interim City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Assistant Beth Horner, City Attorney Vose

VISITORS: Gary Kroells, Justin McCoy (Maple Plain Councilmember)

4. BUDD AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN MAPLE PLAIN- discussion relating to Maple Plain Reconstruction Project.

Kaltsas discussed the Budd Avenue reconstruction project set to begin this spring. He said the cost to the City is estimated to be around \$30,000. He noted some of the costs may be assessed which would come out of that total number. Kaltsas said Maple Plain will keep the water line on the east side of the road but they are planning to reroute the sewer down the middle of the road instead of in the right of way. Kaltsas said Maple Plain is requesting the City of Independence assess the property at 1826 Budd for sewer and water utilities. A public hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2016. Maple Plain's City engineer will be at the hearing to answer any questions about the project.

Johnson asked if the property just to north had water and Kaltsas stated they did not. Spencer asked what the advantage would be to having it run down the middle of the road instead of where it is currently located. Kaltsas said it was an engineering call. McCoy noted that currently the sewer runs along the west side. Johnson asked if there was a state law that mandated distance between sewer and water lines. Kaltsas stated there was criteria and the reconstruction would meet the conditions. Kaltsas noted Maple Plain would be awarding the contract on April 16, 2016 and would be completing the work prior to or after Maple Plain Days.

Johnson asked if the property would have one or two hookups. Kaltsas said there is an area south of the church that would be assessed on a parcel basis instead of unit basis. McCoy asked if the City had collected the WAC and SAC charges for the property. Kaltsas stated it had not been done yet. Vose stated if someone would object than it may mean a disconnection.

Kaltsas stated the utility assessment is reasonable based on costs. Kaltsas said the road assessment number needs to be further clarified so the City of Independence has a more definite idea of what the outcome may be. Spencer stated it would be a huge cost to the City from an engineering standpoint to move the line under the center of the road. Kaltsas said the 30k was a bare bones number without curb, gutter and other variables figured in.

Ende asked who was responsible once the road went in. He questioned where the stubs would be and if they needed to get to the pressure the line would the road need to be torn up. Kaltsas said they were discussing putting a 6" stub on the property on the Maple Plain side. Johnson said that cost should be put in the initial assessment amount. Kaltsas said if we chose to increase the pipe size that would add 12k to the cost. McCoy asked if the fire hydrant would stay on the east side. Kaltsas noted the hydrant would not be moved.

5. URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREA EXPANSION- Discuss concept plan to develop Tree Farm on CSAH 19 and general expansion of urban services.

Kaltsas said the City has been approached by a developer to develop 1385 County Road 19 North just South of Maple Plain (Jerde Tree Farm). Kaltsas said the property is zoned agriculture and guided by the Comprehensive Plan as Rural Residential. Kaltsas said the high level plan is for 33 lots on 20 acres at 1/4-1/2 acre lots. He noted this was a conceptual plan to solicit feedback. Kaltsas said it would involve a comprehensive plan amendment if this plan were to move forward. It would also entail a JPA with Maple Plain for utilities. Kaltsas noted Met Council would have to approve the connection for sewer and an ordinance would have to be crafted to fit this type of development.

Johnson asked about saying yes but not fast-forwarding the comprehensive plan which will be reviewed in two years. Kaltsas noted that if the project was initiated now it would be developer paid. McCoy asked what was needed for a comprehensive plan amendment versus a text amendment. Kaltsas stated the comprehensive plan amendment would require Met Council approval. Betts stated it would be a win for Maple Plain businesses.

6. CITY EMAIL ADDRESSES- discussion relating to possible ordinance update.

Vose urged Council members to use the City email addresses provided noting data practice laws. He said in the event that emails are requested it is best to have everything in one place on one server rather than trying to sort through personal email accounts. Spencer asked for guidelines on what the City email should be specifically used for in order to streamline accounts. Vose stated if a councilmember is wearing their "councilmember hat" than they should be using the City email.

7. ENTRY SIGNAGE/ SCULPTURE/ ARTWORK FOR CITY HALL

Spencer stated he and staff have been working with local artists for possible ideas for signage and artwork at City Hall. He noted there may be some public grant money that could be used towards an effort to improve the entrance and garden areas of City Hall. Spencer noted this was a very initial look at doing any upgrades and Kaltsas stated that as well and to stay tuned for further ideas and discussion.

8. LAKE SARAH NO-WAKE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS- discussion relating to possible ordinance update.

Spencer stated two years ago there was a no-wake issued for Lake Sarah. He noted he does not anticipate that happening again this year but there is never a guarantee. Spencer stated the current ordinance was one of the first in the area to be created so guidance was limited. He stated it does not work and needs to be rewritten. Spencer stated most other lakes are based on a "trigger" level and when the water hits that mark it goes on a no-wake. He said for Lake Sarah and Lake Independence the way the ordinance is written is that once it hits that level and stays that way for three days then the ordinance goes into effect. He said that was not applied to the removal of the no-wake criteria and that is what needs to be defined. Spencer said there would need to be

a Public Hearing to review the language and tweak the ordinance. Kaltsas stated it could be put on the agenda for the next council meeting.

9. CITY AUTHORIZED INVESTMENT AGENT- consider adding additional agent as approved investor.

Kaltsas noted ABDO is recommending an additional investment agent to offer more return on short-term investments. Johnson asked about the M4 fund and Kaltsas said he would look into that further. Vose stated there is an opportunity with John Uttley for investments.

10. MAPLE PLAIN DAYS- discussion of City's involvement with the event.

Kaltsas noted the last motion by the Council was to examine becoming a full partner with this event but would need to know expectations before committing. Council looked at full partner meaning a name change of the event to reflect both cities and potentially moving the site between the two cities on alternate years.

Justin McCoy spoke on behalf of Maple Plain. McCoy stated there is a committee that runs Maple Plain Days but there is a designated leader specifically named. He said the Maple Plain Council is not in favor of changing the name but they would still like to have a partnership with Independence.

Spencer noted that the intent of combining efforts was to put together time and money spent separately by the City of the Independence on Heritage Fest and the City of Maple Plain on their celebration and just have one large event. He said that Maple Plain Days is a successful festival for Maple Plain and he understands why the Council would not want to change the name. Spencer noted the question is what Independence's role should be in the event. He said about a fourth of the community identifies with Maple Plain, a fourth with Loretto and half identifies with Delano. Spencer said since this is a Maple Plain event our participation should be at the same level as the Loretto fun fest or Delano's Fourth of July celebration. He noted the overtime paid out to Independence staff and the contribution of \$7500+ to Maple Plain Days last year and believes we need to scale back on the involvement and be involved at the same level as other cities. Spencer said that would allow us to go back to square one and develop something all residents of Independence identify with and would build our identity as a City. Betts stated she agreed with Spencer. She said she has spoken with a lot of residents of Independence and they do not identify with Maple Plain and do not go to Maple Plain Days.

11. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE- brief mention of several administrative items

- a. City Clean-up Day- Horner said it is the first Saturday in May (7<sup>th</sup>). She noted the new hours of 9-Noon.
- b. Clerks Conference- Kaltsas said it would be a very beneficial program for Horner to attend and work towards her certification.
- c. Luce Line Trail Connection- Kaltsas outlined Three Rivers Park District plan for connections on the Luce Line Trail and upcoming resolution for it

12. ADJOURN

**Spencer adjourned the work session at 8:50 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Trish Bemmels, Recording Secretary