

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION OF THE
INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 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 Grotting

ABSENT: Councilor McCoy, City Attorney Vose

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Assistant Beth Horner, Public Work Ende

VISITORS: Gary Kroells

4. Loretto Sewer Connection/Metropolitan Council Takeover of Force Main on CSAH 19 – Update and discussion relating to current project status.

Kaltsas said there have been meetings with Met Council and Loretto on their sewer project. Loretto has a mandate to update their system to meet required thresholds. Loretto would have to connect at County Road 11 and County Road 19 to hook up to our system. Met Council does not want to own the system as it doesn't meet any of their standards and is not big enough. Kaltsas said there is a two-phase proposal being presented at this point. Loretto would hook into our system at County Road 11 and 19 and use their ponds as back-up. They would regulate what was being put into our system and not put pressure on our system. Met Council would pay the cities of Medina and Independence to operate the system for an unspecified amount of time. At some point, Met Council would redo the line along County Road 19 and they would also rebuild the lift station.

Betts asked the timeframe being considered by the Met Council. Kaltsas said they told Met Council the City would rather they just take it and operate it. He said Medina operates the lift station. Ende stated we pump the pipe twice per year. Spencer asked if Met Council would take over the cost of operating the MP1. Kaltsas said yes. Kaltsas said the Met Council would pay Independence approximately 2k per year to cover our costs.

Johnson asked if there were any odor problems. Ende said there has not been since the station was rebuilt. Kaltsas said there are some issues with the pipe along Sycamore and Met Council said they would replace it and take over the lift station MP1 as part of an agreement. Kaltsas said the first improvements would be the LS63 and then they would connect Loretto in 2019. Spencer asked about a check valve. Ende said it would depend on the design of the system. Kaltsas noted Met Council would pay for the City's additional run time. Ende said he would like to put Loretto's run times on our off peaks. He said it would be a matter of when they can pump and how much they can pump. Grotting asked if this was a relief situation until Loretto figured out their system. Kaltsas said this would actually be a permanent fix. He noted Met Council wants them to be a part of the regional system. Spencer said if Met Council takes over the line on County Road 19 that would be a win for everyone. Kaltsas noted that Met Council's 2025 plan is for a 16" forced main with Independence joining the regional system. He said Council needs to consider that this would limit our capacity in the meantime until Met Council completes their project. Kaltsas said there needs to be a fee to Loretto for the

time the City has spent looking at this with engineering, legal fees and staff time. Kroells stated Medina was experiencing a lot of growth and wondered about the effects of that. Kaltsas said more of the growth has been east of Loretto.

Johnson asked about the line's current capacity. Kaltsas said it was about 120,000 gallons per day. He said we currently pump about 40,000 and Loretto would pump about 40,000. Spencer said Loretto's woes are the responsibility with the MPCA. He said it should not cost the City of Independence anything. Spencer said the City of Independence should be compensated for their staff time and engineering costs. Grotting asked if there should be a permit fee. It was noted Met Council will take care of the fees. Spencer said we easily have \$10,000 invested thus far in engineering and staff time. Ende said his concern would be a jump in the I & I.

5. **Urban Residential Area Expansion** – Update and discussion regarding concept plan (Meadows of Independence) to develop tree farm on CSAH 19 and general expansion of urban services.

Kaltsas said the applicant is looking to develop the tree farm with 35 home sites on a quarter or half-acre lots. He said the lift station which is Maple Plain's would serve that development and at peak times it is already operating at 250% of capacity. He said because of Maple Plain's I&I there are capacity limitations. Kaltsas said Met Council would like to see this development connect to the Metropolitan Council Lift Station #63 by running a new line down Willow Street and not connecting into Maple Plain's local system. Spencer agreed that would be a preferable situation.

Betts asked who was developing the project. Kaltsas said the group working on this is Mike Haley and Anderson Engineering. Kaltsas said the initial step would be a preliminary plan review before a formal application. He noted Maple Plain would have to be approached for the water hookups and Met Council for the sewer. Kaltsas said Public Hearings would happen at the appropriate stage of the process.

Johnson asked about the lot sizes in comparison to Maple Plain lots. Kaltsas said the lots run at about 16,000 sq.ft. whereas, Maple Plain lots are about 8,000-10,000 sq. ft. Betts said if the houses are too close together it presents a safety problem in the event of the fire.

Kaltsas said the park dedication fee would be \$3500 per lot and there would be new sewer fees as well. Johnson asked if this should be a special project instead of part of the comp plan. Kaltsas said yes and that it would lead into the Comp plan. He noted timing is critical.

6. **Lake Sarah No-wake Ordinance Amendments** – discussion relating to possible ordinance update

Kaltsas noted this does not require a Public Hearing but there have been a number of residents that want to be involved with it so it will be set-up as pseudo hearing of sorts. He said that as of now the no-wake goes into effect when the water level reaches 981.1 for a period of three consecutive days. The ordinance states that the no-wake is removed immediately when the level drops below the 981.1 level. Kaltsas said there is no way to notify people when the restriction is removed.

Spencer noted there was not clear language written around this original ordinance and it said the City Administrator had discretion over it. He said some people who use the lake want immediate retraction and it has been an issue every time the no-wake has been issued. Spencer said having it be three days on/ three days off would make it consistent with Lake Independence and there have not been issues with the enforcement there. Kroells asked who the authority was to check the levels. Spencer said there are two water level readers for Lake Sarah; Cindy Keating with backup Scott Walsh and Fred Lang with Spencer as backup. He noted they are DNR water level readers not Lake Association appointed. Spencer said the line about the

Administrator having discretion should be removed per the DNR. Kaltsas noted he met with Greenfield and they are on board as part of the Joint Powers Agreement. It was agreed this could be looked at further at a June meeting.

7. **Lake Sarah Weir and Outlot Project with Greenfield** – discussion on possible City cost sharing and agreement relating to removal of floating debris around outlet weir.

Kaltsas said Greenfield contacted the City about bog removal on Lake Sarah. He said the cattails get loose then float around the lake until they eventually end up clogging the weir and affecting the water. Kaltsas said the lake association (LSIA) has been trying to deal with the bogs by removing them and placing them on the Three Rivers Park District property along the railroad line. Three Rivers looked at putting in a gate to prevent the bogs from getting into the weir but the costs were staggering. Three Rivers said they will allow the bogs to be on their property as long as the LSIA supplies the manpower and removes the dried bogs in the winter. Greenfield will assist the LSIA members by using their public works people and equipment to remove and dispose of the dried bogs the LSIA members have put on the Three Rivers designated property. They would like to ask the City of Independence to help with the costs associated with these efforts.

Kaltsas said the costs associated with this could be put into a JPA with Greenfield at 68% of the costs (based on residents on Lake Sarah in Independence) or a max amount. Spencer said it would be easier to split things 1/3, 2/3 with Greenfield. It was agreed that would be proposed.

8. **Public Works Update** – CSAH 19 and CSAH 11 intersection improvements and seal coat quotations

Ende said they met with Hennepin County about the intersection of County Road 19 and County Road 11. He said traffic backs up on 11 due to no turn lane to go south on County Road 19. Ende said another lane will be put in on County Road 11 to make a right turn lane on County Road 19. The project will be done this August. Hennepin County will be completing the project.

Betts asked about seal coating. Ende said they went out for bids to seal coat from Pagenkopf to Lindgren. Pearson Brothers had the low quote at \$27,000. The project will be done in July. Ende said it is fine rock, about 1/8 fine grade. Johnson asked when the City parking lot would be done. Ende said they are looking at the end of June or the first part of July. Ende said they have completed over 7 miles of crack sealing this year. Betts asked about Independence Road. Ende said it had been crack sealed and now they will be doing the seal coating. Ende said the partnership with Medina is going well.

Ende said they will be tiling on Nelson Road from County Road 6 to Kunz Crossing and it should be a one day project.

Ende asked the Council what should be done about the mound on Lindgren. He said there have been people dumping leaves and twigs. He asked if a letter should be sent to residents on Lindgren about not dumping in that area. Ende noted there is a resident that is opposed to the property being mowed as she thinks it should be kept wild for butterflies, etc. Spencer asked if a master gardener should do something with the property. Ende said it would be hard to manage a project like that and would require a lot work. Kaltsas noted the issue was maintaining the lot.

9. **General Correspondence** – brief mention of several upcoming items

- a. Delano Senior Center – Financial Contribution
- b. Hennepin County Assessor – Contract for Services

- c. Maple Plain – Fire Boundary
- d. Lindgren Lane City Owned Former Community Mound Property – Maintenance
- e. Citywide Paper Reduction Initiative – City Packets for PC and CC
- f. Zoning/Nuisance Violations- Update

Kaltsas noted Delano requested funding again this year. Johnson said a lot of our residents use the center and it should be funded. Kaltsas said he would bring it to Council.

Hennepin County Assessor- it was agreed to stay with them and renew the contract.

Maple Plain/ Fire Boundary- it was discussed if the Maple Plain Fire Department can serve Highway 12 better than the Long Lake and Delano Fire Departments. The Fire Chief had called a meeting and asked if their coverage could be extended west of Highway 12 to Nelson and North of 12 a bit as well. He noted their response times are better than Delano. Kaltsas said Independence pays for a percentage of the Maple Plain Fire Department and this would allow the City to expand the district without paying more. Kroells said the boundaries need to be revisited. He wants the quickest response times possible. Kaltsas said everyone dispatches Maple Plain as they can get there first but if Long Lake dispatches them we still pay Long Lake. Spencer said the direction on where to redraw the fire lines would need to come from the Fire Chiefs of Delano and Maple Plain. Betts emphasized the Council’s responsibility is the safety of the citizens.

Citywide Paper Reduction Initiative- Kaltsas said Horner and Bemmels have researched the cost of printing packets for the City Council and Planning Commission meetings. He said the cost of printing paper alone is in the \$1000 range not to mention labor costs. The Planning Commissioners are on board with the exception of large plans that they may need printed. Spencer noted Maple Plain has gone paperless and has purchased iPads for their City Council members. Betts said it was what most cities are doing these days. Kaltsas said Watertown is completely paperless and has city iPads. Betts said she would like to see the City of Independence go paperless as well. Spencer said he would like to try it with the exception of large plats or documents that may be hard to read. Spencer said they could issue a one-time tech payment and have each Councilor and Commissioner purchase a device they prefer to use that is roughly the price of a tablet. Kroells said his officers spend a lot of time delivering the packets. Grotting asked what the City Attorney Vose would think about the initiative. Spencer said he is tired of recycling reams of paper. Kaltsas explained how a drop box option would work and how Watertown has been doing there packets this way for three years. Kroells said Maple Plain’s entire Council packet is online and the Councilmembers have to go online and retrieve it. They do not print any packets.

Zoning/ Nuisance Violations- Kaltsas said each zoning case costs about \$10,000 and the City has a limited legal budget. Kaltsas said there is a list that has been compiled that includes all complaints received whether it is junk piling up, a business being run out of a home, etc. Grotting asked how complaints are ranked. Kaltsas said any complaint received is inspected as it is received. Kaltsas said the party is notified of the violation and if they do not respond then it moves to either civil or criminal prosecution. He said civil prosecution is more expensive but provides a longer term solution versus a fine for a criminal action. Kaltsas said the civil process takes over a year to process and in the meantime the City gets a lot of complaints as to why no action has taken place on an offending property. Kaltsas noted there are 12 offenders on the list but that may take years to get to. He wants to Council to know that the City is trying to work through the list. Spencer asked if the budget needs to be increased for this effort to take care of these cases.

12. ADJOURN

Johnson adjourned the work session at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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City of Independence

City Council Work Session Minutes

7:00 a.m. May 19, 2016

Trish Bemmels, Recording Secretary