

**COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, WISCONSIN
Meeting Minutes**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall.

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

- Mayor Baecker presided

Roll Call of Members

- Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Randy Symicek, Deb Marsolek, and Tim Hanson. Also present were, Attorney Laverne Michalak, City Clerk Tiffany Bautch, Luis Gonzalez from the Trempealeau County Times. Members of the Community Isaac Martinez, Madelyn Martinez, Charlotte Thomley, Linda Longmore, Lori Milke, Erica Bauer, and Katie Murphey, Keith Edison.

Proof of Giving Public Notice Given.

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Skroch to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 City Council minutes with corrections sent. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

- Charolette Thomley addressed Council as to why police officers are not staffed during bar closure times.
- Alderman Hanson stated he has received multiple complaints regarding the noise volume after 1:00am from Welcome Bar within the recent months.

Old Business:

- **Lake Dredge Update**
 - Alderman Symicek reported project is still under review with the DNR due to the flood plain.
- **SEH- Block 1 Alley Update**
 - No Update to Report

New Business:

- **Delinquent Charge Resolution**
 - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Ekern to approve Delinquent Charge Resolution as read by Mayor Baecker. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.
- **Fill Position of Vacant 2nd Ward Council Member**
 - Katie Murphy and Linda Longmore were interested in the 2nd ward vacancy. Katie Murphy withdrew her notification of interest. Mayor Baecker gives recommendation of Linda Longmore for 2nd Ward Council Vacancy position. Council Vacancy Term is April 2024 Election. Motion by Ekern and seconded by Skroch. Motion carried with 5-0 with a roll vote.
- **Greenwood Cemetery Maintenance**
 - The former board of the Cemetery is dissolved. Due to state statute, the cemetery will be abandoned. A City like a Town, if a cemetery is no longer functioning by a board, the governed area is to take them over. Discussion was had around the formal timeframe of the transition the City could agree

to take it over as early as 1 year of a potential abandoned cemetery but must after 5 years of being abandoned. Letter of formal notice will be sent to the Council of the known situation.

- **Loan Renewal – Independence State Bank**
 - Motion by Symicek and Seconded by Longmore to refinance the City General Obligation Loan in the amount of \$195,249.21 with 6.99% interest rate with the Independence State Bank. Motion Carried 5 Aye 1 Nay with a roll vote.
- **Trempealeau County Humane Society Contract Approval**
 - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Marsolek to renew the 2024 contract as written. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Employee Health Insurance**
 - Discussion was had on insurance options available for 2024.
 - Motion by Hanson seconded by Marsolek due to the time constraint of the November 1st renewal date. Purchasing Committee to review policy plan and to action final decision for employee health insurance for budget meeting. Motion carried 6-0
- **Licenses and Permits**
 - No Update to Report
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Law Enforcement and Personnel**
 - Meeting with Chief on Police Staff Hour Changes
 - **Fire Department**
 - Fire Department is Working on Lighting and a DNR Ranger Grant.
 - Discussion on Budgeting for the Fire Station Improvements for Concrete Approaches.
 - **Water & Sewer**
 - Discussion was had between W/S and the School Districts regarding chemicals used for cleaning school floors and work together to align and implement a new SOP process going forward to prevent situations like this from happen in the future.
 - Reimbursement Plan for the Water and Sewer Commission to pay back the City Total Amount of \$152,618.00 found on the recent City Audit.
 - One Time Payment Amount of \$62,618.00 will be made to the City in 2023.
 - Budget Plan of \$9,000.00 per year over 10-year term for the remaining total of \$90,000.00.
 - Bi-Annual Payments will be made in July and December.
 - Initial Bi-Annual Installment will begin, July 2024 at \$4,500.00 and December 2024 \$4,500.00 for a total of \$9,000.00 the year.
 - Final Payment of the 10-year term will be completed December 2033.
 - **Street**
 - Discussion on upgrade of City Truck or yellow John Deer Lawn Mower.

- Maple Street and Silver Court Paving will be completed by end of week.
 - **Library**
 - Library meeting with all the Townships asking for Donations for Events.
 - Town of Burnside has Budgeted \$500 to the Library as Donation Annually.
 - Library hosted Kids Events for Ashley for the Arts. Ashley purchased supplies for the event. Any leftover supplies were donated to Saints Peter and Paul School.
 - Christmas Lighting of the Park is planned.
 - Multiple City Community Clubs are pitching in to purchase gifts for kids for Santa.
 - Summer in the Park is completed. Council complimented the Library on the nice work and planned events that were held over the summer.
 - **Ambulance Committee**
 - Waiting on the Resolution Paperwork.
 - **Property of Anesthetics**
 - Working on next steps process regarding properties that paid the fine but did not clean up the property.
 - Properties that appealed the fine have court hearings this month.
 - New List of Properties will be reviewed within the next month.
- **Correspondence**
 - Treig Pronschinske Office dropped off Wisconsin Blue Book 2023-2024 for Council.
- **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**
 - Motion by Skroch seconded by Hanson to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried
- **Closed session per Section 19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Statutes to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.**
 - Council did not move into closed session at meeting.
- **Date for Next Meeting**
 - City Council meeting Monday, November 6, 2023 @ 6:15 p.m.
 - Tentative Purchasing Committee: October 10, 2023 @ 10:00am
 - Tentative Street Committee: October 16, 2023 @ 4:30pm
 - Tentative LEP Committee October 18, 2023 @ 4:30pm
 - Tentative Finance Committee: October 25, 2023 @ 4:30pm
- **Items for Next Agenda**
 - Lake Dredge Update
 - SEH- Block 1 Alley Update
 - Set Date for Budget Meeting
 - Set Date for Employee Reviews
- **Adjournment**
 - Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Tiffany Bautch, City Clerk